年齢イコール
彼女いない歴の魔法使い
1
ぶんころり
MだSたろう

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ぶんころり
Mr.Sたろう

Atelier Tanaka - WN Chapter 00-13 Part 2

Table of Contents

1. Part 1
2. Part 2
3. Part 3
4. Part 1
5. Part 2
6. Part 3
7. Part 1
8. Part 2

Prologue

An empty white space.

Just me, and a god in front of my eyes. Nothing else. No ground under my feet. No sky above my head. No horizon. It's like if outer space was entirely white.

"Yo! You kind of died from my mistake!"

"That's a bit harsh."

"As an apology, I'll put you in a fantasy world with swords and magic and stuff! You can have gold and power and women and everything! I'm pretty nice, huh?"

"Seriously?"

"Yeah!"

"Thank you very much."

"OK, time to choose your cheat power!"

"Please make me a handsome lady-killer."

"A handsome lady-killer?"

"Yes."

"You're sure?"

"Yes."

"Make me the ultimate handsome man, admired by everyone."

"That sounds good! But, you know, I can't actually make you handsome."

"Why? God, why?!"

"It's just your fate since you were born to never be handsome."

"Please, please make me handsome. That's all I want. This is your apology for me dying, right?"

"Not possible. That's the one thing I can't do for you."

"Nooo..."

"So choose something else."

"..."

"Come on, hurry up."

"In that case, I want recovery magic. Magic that can cure any injury or illness."

"Very good! I will give you the greatest of recovery magic!"

I wiped the tears from my eyes.

"Thank you very much."

"Please enjoy this raw, natural experience."

"...thanks?"

back to index

Imprisonment

As I was reincarnated, I collapsed by a river bed, and ended up lying on my face. I don't know why I fell down, and now my nose hurt.

Sand stuck to me as I got up. I brushed most of it off with my fingers. As I recovered, I remembered the promise that god made. At that time, I saw my face reflected in the flowing water.

"Ehhh..."

I was rather ugly.

"Wow, this guy is really ugly."

I had the face of an especially unfashionable middle-aged man.

(Getting a girlfriend will be almost impossible. This is going to be a "hard mode" life.)

I wondered what my status was like.

```
 name: Tanaka
gender: male
race: human
level: 1
job: nothing in particular
```

HP:9/9
MP:87500000/87500000

STR : 3
VIT : 2
DEX : 6
AGI : 1
INT : 5402000
LUC : 1

My MP was high. I wondered if that was related to my recovery magic.

"What are my skills like?"

```
 passive:
magic recovery: Lv.Max
magic efficiency: Lv.Max

active:
recovery magic: Lv.Max
```

Exactly as I had requested. If only I had a better face I'd have no complaints.

"Hoooooo..."

I sighed at the river's surface. After sighing a bit, I started walking.

I was in some woods. But where? I tried following the river, and found something road-like. It was actually 10 meter wide gravel road, with forest on both sides. I'd only ever seen asphalt roads, so a gravel road seemed like a fantasy setting to me.

"Ah, it's a carriage, a carriage is coming."

There was a Middle Ages fantasy style carriage, pulled by 2 horses. A 2-hp carriage.

"Hey, hey!"

I tried waving at it. It went past, ignoring me.

"..."

It slowly receded while making a satisfying "clunk, clunk" noise. I stood there for a while. It didn't seem like it was going to stop.

Indeed, it slowly got smaller as it continued on.

Hitch-hike: failure.

"...I guess I'll go, then?"

I walked after the carriage. The few "other carriages" that I had hoped for passed me quickly.

◇◆◇

After walking for about an hour, I found a town.

It was fairly large, and was surrounded by walls. It really had the feel of a fantasy fortress city. At least from this distance, it seemed larger than Disneyland.

I stopped at a checkpoint at the entrance with some soldier-looking people.

"Show your pass."

"I don't have one."

"Then it's 10 copper coins for 10 days. Or 1 silver coin for 100 days. Choose."

"....."

Apparently an entrance fee was necessary, and I didn't have any money.

"What is it?"

"Kind of a lot of things, actually..."

(What do I do here?)

"A lot of things? Huh?"

"Sorry, nevermind."

"...eh?"

I made a U-turn.

A U-turn.

At that point, a soldier went after me.

"Hey, wait there! Wait, you suspicious guy!"

"Gaah!"

Shit. He was going to catch me. I ran furiously, but he was catching up. The soldier who was weighed down by clattering armor was catching this Japanese guy wearing jeans and a t-shirt.

"Haa...haaa..."

And I was caught.

"Got you!"

"Ugh...I feel sick..."

And then I threw up.

The soldier dragged me back towards the checkpoint anyway. I was wrapped with a hemp rope, I was led around, and then I was in jail.

And so, I entered the town in a way I hadn't hoped for.

◇◆◇

3 days passed while I was stuck in the jail. They gave me food and water, so at least I wouldn't starve to death.

There was also a latrine. Water periodically flowed through a small basin in a corner. On the floor, there was a bed of straw. It wasn't too bad for being straw.

"...I'm bored."

There was just nothing to do. Free time was the only thing I had, and I had lots of it.

"You think so too, right?"

I had tried saying something many times, but hadn't gotten a response yet.

This jail cell had 2 people, including me. The other person looked like they were around 17. They had white skin, a face with deep features, blonde hair to their hips, and blue eyes. A western beauty.

And she had big boobs, too. "Glamorous" was an appropriate word to describe her. With her just wearing a thin blouse, it was too sexy. I wanted her to have my kids.

"Um, could you at least give me an answer?"

"You're annoying. Shut up."

"I see..."

I got mad.

We'd been here in the same jail cell, but she was so distant. She was actually up against the wall, as far away as she could be.

"Do you need to use the toilet? It's better not to hold it in, you know."

"Of...of course not! Stop harassing me, you criminal!"

"You're in a jail too, you know."

"Don't put me in the same category as you!"

...
She was still beautiful when pooping.

I don't know what the guards were thinking, putting a man and a woman together in the same cell. I was happy, but seeing her and not being able to do anything about it was painful. I was getting blue balls from being in the same room with her for so long.

"Can't we at least have a normal conversation?"

"You're the only one who wants to talk, so you can talk to yourself."

"Conversation might make being in jail a bit more bearable, you know."

"Shut up. And stop glancing at me, it's gross."

(She's looking at me like I'm definitely a dangerous criminal.)

Thinking about it, there was no way she would treat someone who looked like me that she met in a jail cell normally. If I was a woman in her situation I probably would have reacted the same way. I felt bad about that, so I decided to be quiet.

But I wondered what her status was like.

```
name: Annerose Leapman
gender: female
race: human
level: 36
job: Holy Knight
```

HP：253/850
MP：175/750
STR：300
VIT：158
DEX：321
AGI：233
INT：540
LUC：91

(Wow, level 36? In a typical RPG, that would be around the middle of the adventure.)

(But no, in the newer online games the levels go much higher. Maybe she's just getting started.)

(Also, "Holy Knight" is so cool. I wish I was something like that.)

"....."

(That reminds me: how long am I going to be here?)

If things were going to be like this, I should have asked for attack magic instead of recovery magic. If I had that I wouldn't be in jail.

Under these circumstances I couldn't do anything.

(What good is amazing recovery magic going to do me here? I wish I got more cheat skills than that.)

(...what exactly are cheat skills, anyway?)

While I was sitting in the corner of the room getting annoyed, I suddenly heard someone's voice. It came from outside the cell, and it seemed like 2 men were talking.

"Hurry up and get them. The preparations for the execution are already done."

"Ah, er, understood sir!"

It was a dangerous-sounding conversation.

(Surely they're not talking about me...right?)

The echoing footsteps of the jailer were making me feel nervous. And then, the sound stopped in front of my cell. The jailer took a key out of a bag, and unlocked the jail door. It opened with a dry rusty sound.

"Time to go, Mercedes."

"tch"

(Whew, it wasn't me. It was my cellmate.)

Looking at her, she was chewing on her lower lip in distress. Apparently she understood something about the situation.

"Hurry up."

The jailer came into the cell. It looked like he'd carry her off forcefully if necessary.

"Shut up, I absolutely won't forgive you for this!"

"Come on, hurry up."

The jailer grabber her arm and pulled her up.

Apparently this would be the day of her death. Despite her being a cute girl less than 20 years old.

"....."

As I was starting to worry about her, a conclusion came quickly.

(I've lived with this person for 3 days and 3 nights, so I should see if I can do something. And if I don't do something now, I have no idea when I'll be able to get out.)

At that moment, the jail door was conveniently wide open.

"Umm, Mr. Jailer?"

"You shut up!"

"Waaahh!"

Pretending to be scared, I retreated towards the shallow pit on the side of the cell. Over there was some shit my cellmate had left an hour ago that hadn't been washed away yet. I grabbed some with one hand, hiding it behind me.

"Come on!"

"Don't touch me!"

"Silence, you traitor!"

The jailer was completely focused on her.

"Um, Mr. Jailer..."

"I told you to shut up!"

And then, I hit him in the face with the shit in my right hand.

"Aughh! My eyes! This smell!"

His nose was twisted from the small, and some of it got in his eyes. He bent over in agony. That would probably cause a bacterial infection. E. coli can be vicious.

Three cheers for the smell of that girl's poop.

While he was panicking, I pulled out the sword on his hip and stabbed him in the stomach through the leather armor he was wearing.

"Gyaaaah!"

The jailkeeper screamed loudly.

"Good."

(Now we just need to escape. But it won't be easy.)

As I was thinking that, I suddenly felt weird. It was like I was filled with power, or maybe just had a lot of caffeine. Apparently I had leveled up from killing the jailer.

```
name: Tanaka
gender: male
race: human
level: 3
job: nothing in particular
```

HP：209/209
MP：90500000/90500000
STR：30
VIT：20
DEX：31
AGI：29
INT：5702000
LUC：12

(Wow, I went up 2 levels.)

I was glad my HP had increased. As expected, only having 9 HP would have been bad.

"...hey, you bastard! What have you done?"

She yelled at me.

(Hey, it's especially important to stay calm at times like this, miss.)

"Will you at least cooperate when we're escaping?"

After a moment of hesitation, she gave me a small nod.

"I understand."

"OK then."

"But in exchange, give me that sword."

(In exchange for what? Working together? I see how it is.)

"Fine."

I gave her the sword.

"From here on I'll handle things somehow. You can just follow me."

"Yeah, yeah."

"There, there's shit on the sword?!"

"That's yours."

"Shut up! Just shut up and go!"

As she said, our battle formation would be the beautiful girl in front and the ugly guy in back.

Soldiers who'd heard the jailer's cry had come. She charged forward enthusiastically, cut through the soldiers blocking us and kicked them away.

And so, we escaped from the jail.

The jail was to the side of a castle. The two of us ran away from the castle, towards the town. Our path went back and forth, and our pursuers lost sight of us.

Then, we ran into a back alley for a little while. She stopped running and looked back, catching me by surprise. My breathing was ragged at that point, and I was relieved to stop.

(Have we finally reached a point where it's safe to stop?)

No, that didn't seem to be why she stopped. She put the point of the sword to my neck.

"You can just do as I say, now."

"...eh?"

"You're a criminal. Did you think I would overlook your jailbreak?"

"No, uh, I didn't do anything particularly bad."

"So now, I'll take you into custody personally."

"Um, but you were there too."

"Don't lump me in with trash like you!"

"...are you for real?"

Even if god had given me recovery magic, there was no way I could revive myself after I died.

She took some rope out of a bag she'd carried off, and I ended up being tied up on the cold stone pavement.

(When did she get rope?)

She tied my wrists behind my back, and tied that rope to a window. I felt like a dog tied up in a yard.

"Now then, you can get caught again and go back to the jail."

"...seriously? Come on..."

"No thanks are necessary, this is a free service for criminals."

And so, she ran off, leaving me there.

◇◆◇

I was left by myself in the back of the alley. Eventually, I managed to stand up somehow.

(I should see if I can escape.)

I couldn't get the rope to loosen. She'd tied me unnecessarily firmly, and she'd used a stick with the rope somehow.

(Apparently that girl is an expert at tying people up.)

"...it's over."

I wondered if I'd starve to death there, tied up like that. I'd been stuck for long enough that my pants were already wet from urine.

(Who would come save this dirty ugly guy?)

"Ow...this seriously hurts..."

(I don't want to die, not here.)

As I was thinking that, I heard someone's voice. I turned towards that sound, and saw a few delinquent-looking young men.

"Hey, I found something unusual."

"Ah?"

I'd been found. They quickly formed a semicircle around me.

"Umm, excuse me, but could you please do something about this rope?"

I made an extremely awkward plea. Instead of a reply, I got a kick in the face.

"Gaaah."

"What is this guy? He's gross."

"Let's do him."

"Yeah."

"He's just a begger, so there's no problem if he dies."

"No shit."

"I could use some stress relief."

"Do it, do it."

(These guys are dangerous!)

Then they beat me up. But they only beat me up for a short while; how nice of them.

I was in a lot of pain when they got tired of beating me up and left. Somehow they had broken the stick in the ropes and loosened them while beating me up. On the other hand, I was almost dead.

```
name: Tanaka
gender: male
race: human
level: 3
job: nothing in particular
```

HP:1/209
MP:90500000/90500000
STR:30
VIT:20
DEX:31
AGI:29
INT:5702000
LUC:12

My HP was dangerously low.

"Recovery magic, recovery..."

As I was thinking about how to use my recovery magic, my body started glowing. The pain had disappeared, and I checked my status.

```
name: Tanaka
gender: male
race: human
level: 3
job: nothing in particular
```

HP：209/209
MP：90500000/90500000
STR：30
VIT：20
DEX：31
AGI：29
INT：5702000
LUC：12

"It worked! Amazing!"

Any MP I had used had already been recovered, probably because of my "MP recovery" passive skill. I almost certainly would have died if not for my recovery magic.

(This world is too dangerous!)

◇◆◇

I'd escaped from my predicament. I was safely in the town, and the pursuers had given up. My injuries had been healed, and I was in perfect health. Things were great! Except for my ragged and bloodstained clothes.

"...I look like the ultimate slum dweller right now."

I walked to the main street, and everyone nearby avoided me. I also had urine on my clothes and stank. It was fairly obvious what the people nearby thought of me.

(I need some clothes.)

I looked around for some way to get better clothes.

"Clothes, clothes..."

(Ah, shit. I have no money either. I wish I had some money.)

...

(I'll have to earn some money somehow. This is a fantasy European Middle Ages-style world, so maybe there's an adventurer's guild.)

And so, I decided to find an adventurer's guild.

back to index

Adventurer's Guild pt.1

"Here it is."

After trying to talk to several people in the town, I finally found one who was willing to tell me where the

Adventurer's Guild was.

"Michael" was the name of the person who'd helped me. I remembered it so that in case I avoided death by hanging, I could properly thank them later.

(Time to find a quest.)

The guild had swinging wooden double doors that looked like they were from a "Western" movie. Inside, there were a lot of people with scary faces.

They were all staring at me.

(Scary!)

I shakily headed towards the counter. Standing there was a bald macho man about my age.

"Excuse me, I want to do a quest to make some money."

He answered me frankly: "Eh? You want to become an adventurer? At your age?"

"Er, yes. I do."

"....."

He made a complicated face.

"...fine, write your name and such on this paper."

"OK."

As I brought my right hand up to the counter, I realized something.

There was still shit on it. Mercedes-chan's poop.

(If the man at the counter saw that he'd probably take away the application sheet. That was close.)

I quickly thrust my right hand into my pocket.

(Apart from that, I smell like a bad fart right now.)

"Hey, what is it?"

"....."

"...and hey, don't you stink? Is that smell from you?"

He glared at me.

(Oh-oh.)

But that wasn't my biggest problem.

I could't read the alphabet used. Obviously, I couldn't write it either.

"Excuse me, I can't read and write."

"Eh?

Then just say it instead. I'll generously transcribe for you."

"Thanks."

I escaped from my pinch surprisingly easily.

I told him my personal information, and he wrote it down. Occasionally he muttered something about the smell.

"Name?"

"Tanaka, Yoshio Tanaka."

"Location?"

"Here."

"Age?"

"36."

"Class?"

"Uh, Class 3A."

"Huh? Never heard of that class."

"Ah...."

(What's a class?)

"Oh, whatever. Do you have any special skills?"

The guy at the counter clearly didn't want to be talking to a gross guy like me. If I was in his position I'd feel the same way.

(I should finish this quickly. The information I give here doesn't really matter anyway, right?)

"Um, I'm good with PCs."

"PCs???"

"Yes."

"Fine then, PCs it is."

I could see that he'd just left a blank space on the page. With that, apparently the form was done.

"Here's your guild badge."

"Thanks."

I was handed a metal plate about the size of a trading card.

"Don't lose it."

"OK."

"Go hunt some goblins in the forest. If you can't do that, go collect some medicinal herbs. The guild will pay you for both of those things.

You're rank F, so that's the work you can do."

"I understand."

"Bye."

I seemed to be done there, so there was no point in staying. I headed out to find some goblins and herbs.

◇◆◇

I left the town with no problems. When I returned, apparently I could get through if I showed my guild badge.

After that, I walked for a while. I headed towards what looked like a thicket of trees I saw in the distance. Before too long, I arrived.

"It's a forest."

I had arrived at a forest. A forest!

Still with shit on my right hand.

With only the clothes I'd been wearing in prison.

(I guess I'll look for some medicinal herbs, then.)

(But wait, I'd get shit on them. That would be bad.)

(I should wash my hands in a stream or something first.)

I was also thirsty, and really wanted to wash my clothes. I still had blood on my clothes from when I was attacked by that group of thugs.

So, I headed into the forest. Leaves crunched under my feet as I walked.

I walked on, but I didn't see a stream.

Apparently it wouldn't be easy to find one.

After walking for about an hour, I had naively gotten lost.

"This is tough."

How many years has it been since I walked someplace with no asphalt? It had probably been more than 10 years since I'd walked outdoors for more than an hour straight.

(What do I do?)

I had no idea which way the town was anymore.

My recovery magic had fixed the soreness in my legs, but I was still thirsty. I suspected my magic couldn't deal with hunger either.

More than goblins or herbs, I needed water to drink, food to eat, and the direction back to the town.

"Heeeeeey! Hellooooooo!"

Feeling depressed, I called out as I continued walking. After I'd called out, I saw something goblin-looking ahead.

"There it is."

"...hyumann?..."

The goblin had noticed me too. But it didn't attack.

I could see that its foot and leg had been cut. That was probably why.

"That looks like it must hurt."

"Kuh...is thiz whare I die?" [tl note: The goblin speaks Japanese in katakana.]

It was holding a sword in its hand,

but its knee was shaking and blood was pooling at it s feet. It had escaped from an attack, but not from imminent death from blood loss, and it looked like even I could defeat it with a stick from the ground.

But I'd feel bad about that.

"Hey, goblin. Let's make a deal."

"di...al...?"

"I heal your wound, and you lead me to a stream."

"Wha...what..."

"No good?"

"....."

The wounded goblin seemed to be thinking. Considering its wound, it didn't have long to live.

"Yez, deal..."

It nodded.

(Good choice, goblin.)

"Just remember your promise, now."

I remembered how things had went with a certain Holy Knight recently.

(Eh, it's probably fine, right? Besides, getting killed with a sword isn't any worse than dying of thirst.)

"Here I go..."

I thought about healing the wounds I could see, and they started closing up before my eyes. The recovery magic had worked on the goblin. I didn't know what exactly that magic was called, but it was definitely impressive.

"...healed...?"

"That should about do it."

I stopped focusing on healing the goblin.

"Thiz is...recovery majic?"

"Now then, please lead me to a stream."

"...yez."

Following the goblin for a while, I reached a stream.

◇◆◇

I finally washed off the shit that I'd had on my right hand for a few hours.

"Ahh, goodbye to that smell."

While I was there, I also washed my pants and shirt and body. Without the blood and dirt, my clothes would be more-or-less wearable. Putting on the wet clothes would be a little unpleasant, but I couldn't do much about that.

"Thanks, goblin. You really helped me there."

"...juzt, reterning fayvor..."

"By the way, are there any humans living along this stream?"

"Probly. Humanz...yez."

"I see. Then I should be able to return safely."

Having finally cleaned myself, my thoughts turned to how I'd survive in this world.

"...human, what doing?"

"Eh?

Me?"

"Yez."

The goblin was indeed talking to the ugly guy kneeling by the bank and scooping up water to drink with his hand.

"While looking for medicinal herbs, I got lost."

"Herbz? Grazz?"

"It's a kind of grass that if you mash it up and put it on wounds, it makes them hurt less."

"...I see."

"Does something like that grow near here?"

"Yez, it grows."

"Eh, really? Where?"

"Wait a little."

"Ah, a little, where are you going?"

The goblin had already wandered off somewhere as I said that.

Like it had said to, I waited a little while. I was lucky that it was warm out. The weather was about like Japan in early summer, so I wasn't too cold from my shirt and pants being soaking wet. I had gotten a little hot while walking around, so it was actually nice.

"Ahh."

I quickly got bored.

Several minutes later, the goblin returned.

"...this."

It held some grass in its hand.

"Those are medicinal herbs?"

"Probably. Mash, place, recovery, fazter."

"I see. They do have a surprisingly characteristic look to them."

The leaves were like a 4-leaf clover, but with 8 leaves. An 8-leaf clover.

"...thizz, give."

"Ah, to me?"

"Yez."

"Thank you!"

"...beecause, you saved mee."

"You're a really friendly goblin."

"Goblinz, not good, not bad."

"Ah, neither good nor bad. I see. Humans are the same way. Thanks."

"Iz OK."

(That was educational.)

I'd learned something about goblins, and both found out what the medicinal herbs looked like and gotten a bundle of them. I accepted them and put them in my pants pocket. Luckily, I was wearing cargo pants. I managed to carefully get all of them in my pockets without damaging them.

"You really saved me there."

"I, leaving now."

"Thanks! Goodbye!"

"Goohd-bye."

I waved my arm at the goblin, and it waved back.

(You're a good guy, Mr. Goblin. I don't know if all goblins are like that, or just him, but so far the only goblin I've met was definitely friendly.)

(It was a good thing I didn't try to go for the goblin-hunting quest. I should stick to collecting these herbs instead.)

back to index

Adventurer's Guild pt.2

I followed the stream, and it really did lead back to the

town. I'd managed to safely return to civiliation.

(I should bring that goblin some pastries as thanks sometime.)

So, I headed to the Adventurer's Guild to report that I'd completed the herb-gathering quest.

"Ho, isn't that Makon grass?"

"What's that?"

I was talking to the macho bald guy at the counter.

"It's a more valuable herb than the 'Aruna' grass in the request. It rarely grows in this area."

"Eh, really? Then, did I fail at the quest?"

"That would usually be the case, but, well, I'll make an exception here and change it for you. We get Aruna grass coming in year-round, and there's no time limit for collecting it anyway."

(I see, it's that kind of a quest. It sounds like it's something similar to homeless people collecting cans. An appropriate-seeming job for someone like me.)

"Thank you very much."

(This guy looks scary, but maybe he's actually surprisingly nice. Or maybe the

only thing that matters is results.)

"Here's your payment."

"Ah, thanks."

He took some coins from below the counter.

"For that amount of Makon grass, the payment is 3 silver and 10 copper."

"I see. Thank you."

(I have no idea how much a silver coin is worth, but I should just take them.)

The coins made a "cha-rin" sound as I put them in my pockets.

"And with that, your request is done."

I'd hardly said anything other than "thank you" there. I couldn't help being bad at conversation with someone scary-looking. The atmosphere there also made me uncomfortable. It felt like I imagined it would be like to go downtown in a Western city.

I hadn't seen people of different races here, so with me being a short Japanese guy it was inevitable that I'd be stared at.

I left in a little bit of a hurry.

◇◆◇

Not knowing how much money was worth was a big problem. I needed to fix that.

So, I asked a little girl I met on the road to tell me about the local prices in exchange for a tip.

One silver coin was worth 100 copper. One meal was 5 to 10 copper. A night at an inn was at least 13 copper.

I gave the girl 3 copper, and she left happily.

(If I'd tried that with a Japanese girl in high school, they'd probably want 3000 yen. (~$25) With a girl in middle school, I'd get arrested. And with a girl in elementary

school, a buzzer would go off before I even talked to them.)

(For now, I need to buy a bag and some clothes. Is there anything else I

need...?)

My clothes had mostly dried, thanks to the weather, but they were badly torn, and I wasn't sure if they'd last another day.

I entered a random shop along the street and asked about their prices.

Secondhand clothes were a lot cheaper, and I managed to buy a complete set

without spending too much money. The pants and jacket I got were made of some thick leather, and the underwear was made of something like cotton.

I searched several stores, and bought a bag made of the same leather,

which was more of a sack with a drawstring than a proper handbag.

In total, I'd spent one silver. To me, that felt expensive compared to the cost of food and lodging.

I had 2 silver left.

(What should I do with the remaining money? Oh, it's obvious. This is a fantasy world, so I need a sword.)

I'd dreamed of being a swordsman when I was 14, and now the opportunity was right in front of me. It was going to get dark soon, so I walked quickly along the street, looking for a weapon store.

◇◆◇

"Welcome."

I found a weapon store. They had swords, axes, spears, and some other things I didn't even recognize. It

reminded me of a theme park, somehow.

(Ah, I could look at these all day.)

(But wait, these are all really expensive.)

Looking at the price tags, most of the weapons were around 30 to 50 silver. The most expensive one I saw was 300 silver.

(Hey, hey, that should be enough to buy a car.)

"Hello...?"

If I could get a sword for one silver, that would be fine, but these were too expensive.

"What?"

"Is there anything I can get for one silver?"

"One silver? No."

(How blunt. What a rude shopkeeper!)

As I looked at the shopkeeper, I realized that he looked a lot like a dwarf. In fact, he was a dwarf.

(A real dwarf! Amazing.)

"Nothing, huh?"

"To come into my store expecting to get something for one silver, you must be out of your mind. You won't find a decent weapon anywhere for one silver."

"Ah, I see. Sorry for bothering you, then."

"If you're not buying anything, then get out of here."

"Ehh?"

I gave up on that store and left. As I walked along the street, I thought about what to do next.

(I could gather some more of those medicinal herbs, but I only managed to get them because I happened to meet a friendly goblin. There's no way that's going to happen twice in a row.)

(Weapons are expensive, I'd at least like some kind of basic weapon for self-defense.)

(Ah, what about magic?! Maybe I could manage to launch a fireball or something.)

I had gotten recovery magic, but not attack magic. Still, I had a lot of MP.

passive:
magic recovery: Lv.Max
magic efficiency: Lv.Max

active:
recovery magic: Lv.Max

remaining skill points: 2

(Recovery magic is still my only active skill, but I gained some skill points. Nice!)

(I'll have to use those for something. But how do I use them? I can see this window, but there's not anything like a cursor.)

(No, wait. I just had to think about using my recovery magic and it worked.)

I mumbled to myself as I walked: "I want to shoot fireballs. Shoot fireballs. Fireballs. Fireball, fireball, fireball. Fire Wall would also be fine. Fire Arrow is good too.
Fire Lance would be cool."

I felt like everone nearby was staring at me like I was a madman, but I tried to ignore that.

After a little while, something happened. I felt like I'd gotten an electric shock from inside my body.

(Did it work?!)

I checked my skills again.

passive:
magic recovery: Lv.Max
magic efficiency: Lv.Max

active:
recovery magic: Lv.Max
fire magic: Lv.1

remaining skill points: 1

"Hah! There it is!"

I didn't know the specifics of what I'd gotten, but I hoped it was something I could use to burn enemies. If I could do that, then I'd be fine without a sword.

(Now then, time to find an inn for the night.)

(When I was lost in the forest with shit on my hand, I was worried about what would happen to me, but now I can sort of see what to do.)

(Hmm, I wonder what the max level for skills is.)

(And how do other people raise skills? Do they see windows for them too, and allocate skill points by mumbling to themself? I wish I could look this stuff up online.)

(Maybe I'll find another random little girl on the street to ask sometime.)

I was really happy that in this area little girls were willing to even talk to an ugly

guy like me.

(Actually, considering how happy she was about getting that copper coin, I might be able to go to a brothel for a silver.)

(Should I give it a try?)

(...)

(For now, I should just get some food. The only thing I've had today was that water from the stream in the forest. I'm really hungry.)

◇◆◇

As the sun set, some taverns were opening. There was a good smell coming from an entrance, so I went in.

About 90% of the seats were full. I grabbed one of the remaining counter seats like a

baseball player sliding to home base, and ordered an unfamiliar meat dish.

As I stuffed my face with that, I also got my first experience with the

alcohol of another world.

(Not bad.)

The meat was steak-like, and the drink was similar to German beer. Both were the sort of thing I

liked.

"Delicious."

I swiftly attacked the remaining food. I'd spent all day walking, so I was quite hungry. After I'd finished the food, I had the rest of my drink.

(Ah, sweet sweet alcohol. It's fortunate that alcoholic drinks exist here too.)

I'd finished two mugs.

"Paaahh." I looked up at the ceiling as I sighed.

(My alcohol

tolerance isn't really that high, so I shouldn't drink too much.)
(...but one more is probably fine.)

I waved at a waitress to order one more mug. That's when something hard hit me in the back of the head.

"...ow..."

There was the sound of something hard breaking. Someone had thrown a plate.

(What kind of a place is this?!)

"Recovery, re-recovery...?"

While rubbing the back of my head, I used my recovery magic. The pain immediately stopped, and I turned around.

A brawl was getting started. Two of the scary-looking people I saw in

the Adventurer's Guild building were facing each other. As I watched, they started going at each other like animals.

(What do I do here?)

(.....)

I quietly turned back to the right and looked away. I didn't want to be involved.

"Um, excuse me, could I get another drink?"

I was a little quieter than usual as I addressed the waitress.

"...are you OK? That was an incredible noise before."

The waitress was concerned about the back of my head.

(What a good person!)

She looked about 15 years old, and was quite pretty, with light brown hair to her shoulders and lovely red-brown eyes. She'd been going around the tavern energetically, and the apron she was wearing suited her well.

"Yes, I'm fine. Can I get another drink? Same kind."

"You...you're a really calm person, aren't you..."

"Not really..."

(I'm just content if I have beer. The fight behind me is not my problem. Not my problem.)

She nodded to indicate that she'd understood my order, and went to get me another drink.

As I was thinking that my drink would be coming soon, something hit me in the back of my head again.

"Agh..."

It was even worse than the first time.

I fell onto the counter in front of me, and something hit the floor with a "tonk" noise. It was probably a wooden mug.

"Recov...recovery..."

I did recovery magic in my confusion, and the pain in my head went away again.

"...shit, this is some tavern."

I glanced behind me, and the same two guys were there.

"Are you, are you OK?"

The waitress had arrived with my drink as the same thing happened again. I was happy about her concern.

"...yeah, somehow."

"That was pretty loud, though..."

"Don't worry about it. Can I get my drink?"

"Ah, yes, here you are."

"Ahh, delicious."

"...you're pretty tough. At least, your head is."

"Not really."

(Recovery magic really is great. If I didn't have that, I'd probably be in agony for a

few minutes after that.)

"Ahh..."

"Eh?"

Then, the waitress suddenly shrieked, and there was a thump below me. The stool was knocked out from under me, and I fell to the floor.

"Ooooooooo!"

I unconsciously shouted out as I fell.

(What the hell?)

Even as I was still shouting, I was already using my recovery magic yet again.

Once the pain had gone away, I got up again. That's when I saw what had hit my stool: one of the brawling macho guys was lying on the floor nearby.

"Are, are you OK?"

"...all right, I'm all-ight."

The macho guy lying on the floor had hit his head hard and was unconscious. The remaining guy was looking at him smugly, and seemed satisfied.

"Um, sir...?"

The waitress was looking at me with concern. I was happy that she was worried about someone like me. My magic had healed my body, but her gaze healed my soul.

"...what is it, asshole? You wanna go too?"

The remaining guy was glaring at me. His face was bright red and he was obviously drunk.

(He must be the kind of guy who drinks until he doesn't remember what happened the next day.)

(For now, I should check his status.)

name: Otto Mcfare
gender: male
race: human
level: 23
job: swordsman

HP:420/509
MP:0/0
STR:170
VIT:220
DEX:121
AGI:87
INT:20
LUC:28

(There's no way I could win.)

(I have high INT but no armor or defense, so I'd be done for in one hit. I wouldn't even have a chance to use my recovery magic.)

"No, not really..."

I put the stool back up and sat on it again.

"Hah! You scared? This virgin wimp is scared!"

(...well, excuse me for being a virgin.)

(Or rather, why is this guy picking a fight with me too?)

"...sorry."

(For now, I'll just apologize and hope he leaves me alone.)

"Hah, this little runt is apologizing!"

After that, his attention seemed to turn away from me.

(Whew. I'm saved.)

Not wanting to be any more involved than I already was, I turned away from him again.

Miraculously, my drink on the counter was still safe. I took it and started drinking.

(Ahh, delicious beer. It's delicious, but somehow...)

I couldn't enjoy my drink quite as much with a body on the floor near my feet. Behind me, that guy was starting a fight with another man.

I was worried about the mental strain on the waitress.

(That's about enough drinks for today.)

"Excuse me, I'd like to get the bill."

"Ah, yes..."

I paid 10 copper coins and left the tavern.

back to index

Adventurer's Guild pt.3

I got a room at an inn for the night.

In the morning,
as soon as I'd had breakfast, I headed towards the Adventurer's Guild again.

The same bald macho guy was at the counter. I wondered if I happened to come in on the days he worked, or if he just worked a lot.

"Hello."

"Ah, you again."

(Apparently he remembers me. Well, Asians are probably conspicuous here. I've seen elves and a dwarf and even beast people, and yet all of them are Western-looking.)

"I'd like the same medicinal herb gathering quest as yesterday."

"OK, bring them back here when you're done."

"Also, I'd like to check how those herbs look."

"Eh? You seriously don't know?"

"No, I just want to make sure I'm getting the right kind."

"Really, you're a lot of

trouble."

While mumbling complaints, he took a leather folder from a shelf behind the counter, and took some pages out of it.

"You can collect any of these three, and we'll buy them."

"I see."

The sheets he put on the counter had some pictures of grass and flowers. The

drawings were quite good. I tried to memorize the plants on them.

"Thank you very much."

"I'll put this away away then."

"Sorry about the trouble."

After that straightforward and short

conversation, I left the guild building and headed towards the forest again.

I decided to stay along the road or stream so I wouldn't get lost.

◇◆◇

I reached the stream and walked along it until I entered the forest. A little while after that, I saw a figure that I remembered from the other day.

"Oh, are you the goblin from yesterday?"

"Human..."

It was the friendly goblin again!

It stood by the stream, staring at me. Looking at it more closely, there was a smaller

goblin clinging to its arm. The smaller goblin was breathing roughly and had an arrow in its arm. It looked like it had been hit some time ago. The area around the arrow was very swollen.

"What happened?"

"Sizter...dying..."

"Yes, I see, your sister."

"...human,

thiz, heal."

"Yes, OK. Leave it to me."

I used my recovery magic on the goblin's sister. The arrow got expelled from her arm, and not long after, the skin healed. The swelling went away, and the skin around the wound went from reddish to green.

Altogether, that took a few

seconds.

(That's fast! There's no way this kind of skill isn't

valuable.)

"Oh..."

The goblin was staring at me in wonder.

(It was something I received, though. I wonder what that god I met is doing now.)

"Brother, hurt...gone. Gone!"

They spent a little while just hugging each other.

(Good for them.)

I was actually a little touched, but I couldn't entirely understand their joy, never having had to face life-or-death hardships.

"....human, saved us. Thank you."

"Ah, don't worry about it."

"Thank you."

The goblin's younger sister stared at me while holding onto his arm.

(Well, that's normal for a goblin.)

(I wouldn't even have known she was female. I guess that's how species differences are.)

"I have work to do, so I'll be going now."

I still had to find some medicinal herbs.

The goblin stopped me. "Today, also, herbs?"

"Oh? Yes, that's right."

(Those who don't work can't eat, after all.)

In Japan, even if you did no actual work for a day or two, the company would still pay you. You could just look at some random websites, say you were studying the industry or developing your skills, and everything would be fine.

But now, only having a sack and the clothes I was wearing to my name, I couldn't stop worrying.

(If I didn't have my recovery magic, I'd probably be going crazy right about now.)

"Then, wait. I'll go get."

"Eh, really?"

"Going out. But, wait. Stay here."

"OK, I'll stay here."

(It would be really helpful if he gathered those for me again.)

◇◆◇

(I'll just wait a little while, then.)

Around when I was about to give up on waiting, the

goblin returned. He was carrying a large leather bag with both hands. His sister was with him, carrying another leather bag.

"Oh, those are some large bags you have."

"These, have herbs."

They left the bags at my feet with a plop. Looking inside one, it was full of various grasses.

(How much did they collect?!)

"You're giving me all of this?"

"More. Little more, wait."

"No, no, this is enough.
This is plenty."

(I'm not even sure if I can carry all of this back.)

"...enoff?"

"Definitely. I don't need more than this. "

"I shee..."

He actually looked kind of disappointed.

(This goblin is such a nice guy!)

"Goblin, can't go to town. Here iz OK?"

"Yes, this is fine. Thank you very much."

"This iz thanks for healing sister."

"Yes, right. I understand. This is fine."

"Thank you.

Yoo saved her."

"Ah, by the way, I have a sort of warning, or

situation report..."

"...report?"

"In the town along the stream, humans pay money for hunting goblins here. So, being in this forest is dangerous. If you can, it would be good to leave."

"...yoo alzo, going to kill uz?"

"No, no, no. You saved me life before. I wouldn't do something like that."

"I shee."

"If you want to keep your sister safe, you should move somewhere else."

"...I undershtand."

"But I won't say it's impossible to stay here."

"Mmm, yez."

(This goblin is actually kind of cute.)

"Brozher?"

The goblin's little sister was looking at the faces of me and her brother with concern.

(Well, they would be cute if they weren't so ugly.)

(The sound of the sister's voice isn't bad, though.)

"Undershtand,

then, this foresht, leaving."

"I think that's a good idea."

"...good baaye."

"Yeah, goodbye. Maybe we'll meet again someday."

"Yez. Meet again, someday."

The two goblin siblings then left,

heading deeper into the forest, leaving me with a large amount of medicinal herbs.

◇◆◇

I headed back, carrying the two large leather bags. Because of that, returning to the town took twice as long.

Being full of grass they weren't too heavy, but the bulk was awkward.

From the town's entrance, I headed straight to the Adventurer's Guild.

I pushed through the wooden doors. I still wasn't used to not hearing "irasshaimase" when I entered places.

"Excuse me, I'd like to turn in these."

I put the two bags on the counter with a "dosan" noise, and the same macho bald guy came out to the counter.

"...what is this?"

"These should be medicinal herbs..."

I opened one of the bags and started sorting the grasses into piles. There really were a lot of different kinds. Honestly, I didn't know what was what.

"You got a lot, huh..."

"There was a lot where I went."

He looked amazed. I was amazed when I got them, myself.

"Well, that's fine, you can sit down over there while I sort this out."

"OK."

I sat down where he'd pointed.

The time was a little after noon. The guild building was something of a gathering point for adventurers, so there were several around. I'd seen some in their teens, but most of the adventurers seemed to be 20 to 30 years old.

"....."

I could feel someone staring at me.

(I seem to have attracted a little attention. Probably because I'm Asian. If a white guy went shopping in my hometown, they'd get stared at too.)

(But not in a bad way.)

"....."

I was starting to feel very uncomfortable.

(If I somehow get back to Japan, I swear not to stare at westerners.)

(And I'm bored.)

Looking for something to do, I noticed the bulletin board. The notes were written on parchment in characters that I couldn't read, and held up by pins.

(I wonder what's written on them.)

As I was wondering that, I realized something.

(That's what skills are for. Skills! I think I still have one point remaining.)

"Letters, letters, letters. Reading, writing, literacy skill. Letters, letters, whatever it is, I want to be able to read and write here! Come on!"

I mumbled to myself like a Buddhist monk reciting a prayer.

And then, I felt a "bikun" in my heart, and a ringing in my brain.

(...there it is!)

passive:
magic recovery: Lv.Max
magic efficiency: Lv.Max
language skill: Lv.1

active:
recovery magic: Lv.Max
fire magic: Lv.1

remaining skill
points: 0

After checking my skills, I looked at the bulletin board again.

(...amazing, I can read it normally.)

The notes posted on the
board were basically job offers. The recruitment notices were carefully
lined up in the center.

[Party Member Recruitment]
class: rear guard | (recovery)
rank: B or higher
notes: experience with the Valley of Solitude a plus
organization: Black-Winged Dragon (party)

[Guild Member Recruitment]
class: rear guard | (recovery)
rank: C or higher
notes: none
organization: Daybreak Company (guild)

[Party Member Recruitment]
class: advance guard | (knight)
rank: B or higher
notes: should have 3-element protection
organization: Endless Spear (party)

[Party Member Recruitment]
class: rear guard | (recovery)
rank: E or higher
notes: young party
organization: White Rain

[Looking for Party]
class: advance guard | (swordsman)
rank: C
notes: 10 years of experience, sword specialist
name: Ray Yard

[Looking for Party]
class: advance guard | (ranger)
rank: B
notes: 15 years of experience
name: Jon

[Party Member Recruitment]
class: rear guard | (druid)

rank: C or higher
notes: none
organization: Metal Goblin (platinum)

There were about 15 such

notes lined up.

(I see, so this is how recruitment is done.)

(...there are a lot of requests for healers.)

About half the requests were for users of recovery magic, while there seemed to be an excess of

advance guards. Supply and demand were unbalanced.

(If that's the situation, then maybe even a gross-looking guy like me could get into a

party.)

So, I decided to write a note for myself.

(Two is better than one, and three is better than two. When it comes to violence,

numbers are vital.)

I stood up and went to the board, where there was a small piece of parchment and a charcoal-like writing implement.

[Looking for Party]
class: rear guard | (recovery)
rank: F
notes: beginner

name: Tanaka (36 years old)

(That should do it.)

I put my note up on the board.

(That should be correct. I even wrote my age, so they shouldn't complain when they actually meet me.)

I went back to my seat by the counter.

I decided to rest my head on the counter like I was napping while I waited. This was a skill I had

raised to max level during my life in Japan.

After about 30 minutes, the man at the counter finally called me.

"Hey, sorry about the

wait."

"Ah, it's OK."

When I raised my head, he was right in front of me.

(Gah, scary!)

"You had various things in there, but putting it all together, it would be about 105 silver."

"Eh,

really?"

"You have a complaint?"

"No, no complaint."

That was a huge amount of money, much more than I'd expected.

"Here's your payment."

He put a leather bag on the counter.

"Thanks."

Looking inside, it was full of silver coins.

(It's heavy.)

"You should count it now if you want to. There's no point saying I underpayed you later."

"I understand."

I counted them as suggested.

(What a pain.)

There were indeed exactly 105 silver coins there.

"I've verified the amount."

"It's all yours, then."

"Thanks."

"Also, I'll return your leather bags."

"Ah, OK."

He put the two empty leather bags on the counter.

I could smell grass as I took them.

"That's all, then."

"Thank you very much."

I left the Adventurer's Guild once more.

◇◆◇

I had a warm feeling from my unexpected windfall.

Translating the amount into yen, I started fantasizing about buying a nice car.

And then, I remembered thinking about brothels.

Soapland.

Sex.

Sex in another world.

Fantasy version.

With this much money, affording one night would be no problem. I didn't know the price, but 105 silver would be more than enough.

If my conversion to yen was right, that would be enough for a few hours at even

a high-class

place in Yoshihara.

But when I remembered how I'd gotten that money, I suddenly felt a bit of hesitation. Thinking about the goblins, I wasn't

sure if I'd actually enjoy myself.

The goblin sibling's situation was kind of heartwrenching.

"....."

(Why had I gotten recovery magic from that god? Yes, that was largely so I could cure STDs.)

Ever since HIV arrived in Japan in 1985, the number of people sick with it

had risen continuously. Looking back, it was largely because of fear of AIDS

that I'd remained a virgin. And so, I'd asked for recovery magic.

(I'd hardly had any money until now, but when I think about those goblin siblings...)

(I feel like I should put this money to a respectable use.)

So, I walked on.

◇◆◇

I returned to the weapon store that I

couldn't afford before.

"Excuse me."

"What, you again? If you just want to chat then get lost."

"No, today I've brought some
money."

"Ho...?"

"I'm looking for something around 50 silver."

"That's an impressive change from yesterday."

"That's just how
things happened to work out."

I went closer to the rude dwarf
shopkeeper.

He had the face of a stubborn old guy, but was only about one meter tall. About the same height as that friendly goblin.

"You know how to use a sword?"

"No way."

"Then what can you use?"

"Actually, I wanted to ask you what weapon would be good for a
beginner."

"...you want something small for self-protection, then?"

"Yes, more or less."

"OK. Wait here for a minute."

He went to a room behind the counter, probably to look through his inventory.

After a few minutes, he returned with a sword.

"This should do."

"...rather normal, isn't it?"

"That's because it's a normal short sword."

"I see."

(It's called a "short" sword, but it's
actually about 80 cm long.)

I had no experience with anything bigger than a kitchen knife, and to a standard corporate wage slave like me, it
looked more than dangerous enough.

He handed it to me.

(What am I supposed to do with this? It's kind of scary.)

"Is this made of iron? Steel?"

"Iron? What's that?"

"It's a kind of metal..."

"This is made with Dennis ore from a Dwarvish mine, and I smithed it

myself."

"...I see."

(Huh? What kind of mineral is that?)

(Eh,
whatever it's made of, it's still a sword.)

"How much is this?"

"20 silver."

(That's cheaper than I expected.)

Most of the price tags I'd seen for similar items had higher prices.

(He must put the fancier stuff out front, but it seems like he has good taste.)

"...something wrong?"

"Eh?"

"I understand. 15 silver, then."

"...OK."

(Nice, I brought the price down!)

My
sophisticated negotiation technique was basically the same as saying the wrong price by mistake.

"I'll buy it now, then."

"Do you want a belt and scabbard for an extra silver?"

"Ah, yes."

With that, my search for a weapon was done. I paid with some silver coins and took the sword. I put the belt on, and the sword in the scabbard on that. As I started to leave, the sword was surprisingly heavy, so I stumbled slightly.

"...it doesn't really suit you."

"Yes, I know."

(There's no way I can actually use this thing effectively.)

(But still, it's probably better to have this than nothing. There's some deterrence value in just having a weapon. Like with the Cold War, or nuclear weapons.)

"Thanks. I'll be leaving, then."

"Bring it back here if you chip it, and I'll fix it for one silver."

"Ah, OK."

(Apparently I'll need money for maintenance, too. And it's kind of expensive.)

(If I think about it like car maintenance, then does that make sense? No, it's just a solid piece of metal. When I think about it that way, maybe I paid too much for this

sword. Anyway, I'll try not to have to use it. I don't know how to use it properly, so I'd probably nick it immediately.)

◇◆◇

(Now that I've bought a sword, armor is next. I'm wearing the same clothes as the regular townspeople - not very adventurer-like.)

I decided to at least get some kind of leather armor. Being an ugly older guy, I at least wanted to have the right clothes.

(Have a nice cover, even if what's inside is bad. That's the strength of the women I've known.)

As I was thinking that, I arrived at an armor store. The shopkeeper there was another dwarf.

I headed straight for him, and said, "Excuse me, I'm looking to buy armor and footwear and a shield, a complete set."

"...complete set?"

"Yes, a complete set. Something appropriate for an adventurer."

"...what's your budget?"

"Around 20 silver."

"OK."

(The dwarf here is straightforward, too.)

After those few words, he headed to the room behind the counter. After several minutes, he returned carrying several things with both hands.

"How about these?"

"Oh, wow."

It really was a complete set: armor, boots, shield, and something like trousers. The shield was bigger than I expected.

"For what it's worth, they're new. You can see that they're undamaged."

"Indeed."

(I'd thought he was going to warn me that they were secondhand, but apparently not. It seems that 20 gold for a set of armor is about at the boundary between new and used items.)

"Well?"

"I'll take them."

"OK."

I decided to buy them immediately. Not having any way to verify how good the armor was, all I could do is trust in his recommendation.

(I believe in you, Mr. Dwarf!)

Our conversation had been very short, but then, I didn't really want to have a long conversation with a grumpy-looking dwarf. A swift, efficient

transaction was fine with me.

I only tried the armor on after buying it, and it turned out that adjustment was unnecessary. Apparently my

measurements were fairly typical.

"Bye, then."

"Come back if you get hit. Depending on the condition, I can repair your armor."

"I understand."

I left the armor store, with the dwarf there seeing me off.

◇◆◇

I finally had a complete set of equipment: leather armor, leather boots, a leather shield, and a sword made out of some metal. I felt a petty sense of satisfaction.

(Now what?)

(Uh-oh, now I kind of feel like going off on an adventure.)

As I

walked along the main street, in my heart I was jumping.

(Age has nothing to do with excitement! I can just be a middle-aged warrior.)

I still had 77 silver remaining. The inn was one silver and some copper, so

I could afford lodging and food for three months easily.

All thanks to that goblin.

(I wonder if they managed to escape safely...)

When I looked up at the sky emotionally, it had turned red. With the sun setting, I felt a sense of satisfaction with my day.

(I guess I'll get some dinner.)

I wandered around, a little unsteady from my new equipment, and found a restaurant that looked good. I ordered their

recommended meat dish and beer. When my drink arrived, I did a one-man

toast.

Of course, I went to a different restaurant than the day

before. I didn't want to have stuff thrown at me again. The food was so-so, and so was the beer. It wasn't a bad dinner.

After eating, I headed back to my inn and slept.

back to index

Adventurer's Guild pt.4

The next day, I headed straight to the Adventurer's Guild as

soon as I left the inn. I wanted to see if there were any responses to the note I'd put up on the board.

"...there's something written here."

Something had been added to the piece of parchment I'd put up.

[Looking for Party]
class: rear guard | (recovery)
rank: F
notes: beginner
name: Tanaka (36 years old)

offer: White Rain (party)

(Does that mean they want me to join their party, then?)

I was worried I'd misunderstood something, so I stared at that for a little while, and then I went to the counter. The bald macho guy was there once again.

"Excuse me..."

"Eh? You again? What is it this time?"

"I got a response to my note looking for a party, but what do I do? Is there some way I can contact them?"

"So that's what it is. Just wait for a bit."

"Here?"

"That guy comes by here every day, so if you stay here you'll meet them."

"You mean White Rain?"

"Right. Or rather, you can actually use recovery magic?"

"Eh, more or less..."

"Huh? Do you make people sick instead or something? Look, you've been nothing but an annoyance since you came in here. If something happens we'll call some soldiers to deal with you."

"No, it's not like that."

Apparently he thought I was suspicious.

(Does he not believe I can do recovery magic, or is it something else?)

"Whatever, just wait here and they'll be here soon."

"..."

"Oh, speak of the devil...here they are now."

"Eh?"

I followed his eyes to the entrance. As I looked over, the wooden doors opened with a "karan" and three people walked in.

"Th-they're young, huh?"

"That's a low-rank party for you. I think they're all 16."

"...I

see."

There were two girls and one boy. The boy was handsome, about my height (maybe 175 cm) with blond hair and blue eyes. His looks reminded me of Andrea Casiraghi.

As for his equipment, while I was covered with leather, he had metal plates in key places. Instead of a shield, he had a large two-handed sword on his back.

(He looks like a roleplayer at a Renaissance Faire, but cooler.)

One was a high-class beauty with long blonde hair and red eyes. She was short, under 150 cm. It seemed

questionable whether she could manage as an adventurer. She had all-metal armor, with a one-handed sword at her hip and no shield. With her tsurime eyes, she seemed like a tsundere swordswoman heroine from a dating sim game.

The other girl seemed very plain in comparison. She had a robe that

completely covered her, with a hood too deep to see her hair.

(She's obviously a magician of some sort.)

From what I could see of her hooded face, she was a beauty too.

(Ah, quiet girls like her are cute. I'll pass on the violent one.)

"Hey, you guys! Over here!"

The man at the counter shouted at them unnecessarily, waving with his big hand. They came over towards him until they were within arm's reach of me.

"This is Tanaka."

He pointed at me.

"He-hello..."

Facing the group of a handsome man with two beauties I stuttered slightly. The man, on the other hand, made his introductions smoothly.

"To start, we're the 3 members of White Rain."

As he began his introductions, the handsome man put out a hand with a clear smile. I gave him a timid, awkward handshake.

"Hello."

"It was really fortunate that we found you so quickly."

"Ah, no, likewise."

His smile seemed like it was going to spontaneously emit sparkling stars. On the other hand, the blonde beauty to his side looked extremely unhappy.

"...is this really the right guy?"

"Going by what the master said, he's the genuine Tanaka, Ester."

"What, me together with

that...?"

She obviously hated me.

(Well, that's nothing new for me.)

Having had an ugly face for a few decades, I'd gotten used to that kind of thing.

"Sorry, she's in a bit of a bad mood today."

"No, it's fine, I don't really mind."

The blonde Lolita muttered quietly, "...you should, though."

Ignoring her, he continued.

"Thanks for understanding. Now, we just met, but how about we all do self-introductions?"

"Ah, yes."

At some point, the bald guild employee had left. I saw a few other people lined up at the long main counter of the guild.

"Also, how about we first find someplace to sit?"

He pointed at an area with some seats.

"OK."

I tried to think of what I'd say as I followed him. Being Japanese, I ended up going along with the group.

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"I see, you're Allen, Ester, and Sophie."

"I look forward to working with you, Tanaka."

The initial introductions had finished: the handsome man was Allen, the pseudo-tsundere was Ester, and the hooded girl was Sophie. I was glad their names were easy to remember.

"We originally had 4 members, but on our last job one of us, who handled healing, had a serious injury. I wouldn't want to call you a substitute, but that's what led to us meeting you."

Allen was doing all the talking for them, while the two girls just watched. Ester was staring at me accusingly the whole time.

"I see."

"Would you like to join our party?"

"If you're OK with someone like me, then yes."

For my part, I didn't think I'd be with them too long, but I was very interested in going on an adventure with some cute girls.

"Likewise. Thank you very much."

Allen nodded while smiling brilliantly.

(It seems like he makes most of the decisions for the party.)

"Is it really OK?"

"How do you mean?"

"Well, there's a significant age gap..."

Everyone else was a

teenager. On some level, I felt ashamed of myself for joining a party of kids at my age.

"No, no, age isn't important for adventurers."

"Is that so..."

I knew that they were only joining up with a

gross old guy like me because the demand for recovery magic was greater than the supply. At least, I would have avoided someone like myself if I was in their position.

(Maybe asking for recovery magic was a good choice after all...)

"So, I know we just met, but would it be alright if we go ahead and talk about work?"

"Eh? Right, I look forward to working with you."

We did have a mainly business relationship, after all.

(But Ester seems like a rich girl; maybe she doesn't actually care about making money.)

Having spent decades as a salaryman, I automatically defaulted to a polite business-like approach, whether I was dealing with teenagers or a CEO.

Pointlessly offending the wrong person could end a career, after all.

"Ah, I don't know your current situation, though."

"Oh right, I need to explain that."

Smiling brightly again, he reluctantly continued.

"The thing is, we actually had a job scheduled for tomorrow. We were planning to meet up at the south gate."

They had already accepted a job, and were hoping I'd participate in that.

(Maybe they wanted to confirm my skills as soon as possible. It is better to end a relationship quickly if it won't work.)

"I understand. Then, I'll meet you tomorrow morning at the south gate."

"Is that OK? I realize that this is rather sudden."

"Yeah, I didn't have any other plans."

I nodded at his words, and it was decided.

(Nice, tomorrow is an adventure with cute girls!)

I was a little worried by the fact that I'd only talked to Allen, and not either of the two girls, but I was still happy.

"As for the job we have, it's eliminating the orcs which have been frequently bothering a nearby village."

"Ah, yes, that's fine."

I didn't know what kind of creatures these orcs were, but my role would be using recovery magic and I was confident I could do that.

"...aagh, this is the worst."

Ester was looking at me with disgust.

(Wow, 100% pure hate.)

"I, uh, look forward to working with you."

It was obvious that she hated me, but I couldn't be mad at a pretty girl.

(It's a blonde loli. Loli-loli-loli.)

"Really? That's great. It's good to have you."

"No, no, thank you for inviting me."

(Seriously, thank you.)

And so, my plans for the next day were decided.

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After meeting with the members of White Rain, I left the guild building, and headed for a general goods store to buy supplies. I got its location from once again giving a passing little girl a few copper coins for the information.

(Yes, the little girls of this world will even talk to someone like me!)

I'd expected to get lost, but following the directions I got I arrived at an appropriate-looking store.

(The little girls of this town are high-spec.)

I opened the door, and a bell on it rang as I entered the store.

"Excuse me, I'm looking for some adventurer's tools, like rope and food and so on. Could you put a recommended set of items together for me? Ah, something appropriate for a magician if possible."

The shopkeeper got up behind the counter. She was a woman in her late 30s.

"A set? Well, if you're OK with my guesses then I can put something together."

I expected to be holding the younger people back with my stamina, so I at least wanted to get some useful items. All I could reasonably do was try to be prepared.

Once, I tried to take up mountain climbing, and I bought shoes and a backpack and even tools. The next week, I climbed Mt. Takao, and then never climbed a mountain again. I was the type of person to try to be prepared before even trying something.

"Ah, that's fine."

"OK."

She disappeared into the

storeroom.

(I have the bag I bought and the ones I got from that goblin, so I shouldn't need another bag.)

Having arrived with nothing but the clothes I was wearing, I was happy about having more possessions.

When I was in Japan, owning stuff was the main thing I could be proud of.

After a short wait, she returned.

"Is this good?"

She put some goods on the counter.

Knife, lantern, metal tableware, water bag, blanket, bandages, medicinal herbs, a bottle with some unknown liquid, food, and various other things.

"Ah, yes. How much would that be?"

"Hmm, let's see. Altogether, about 3 silver, I suppose."

"OK, I understand."

I didn't want to ruin her good mood, so I just payed the asking price without trying to negotiate. I gave her the bag I got from the friendly goblin to put the items in.

As she was doing that, she casually asked, "By the way, are you a magic user?"

"Eh, you could say that."

"Fuuu, you don't look like one."

"I, I see."

"What kind of magic can you use?"

"Recovery magic, and just a little bit of fire magic."

"Ehhh, recovery magic, huh?"

"Eh?"

"If it's recovery magic, then are you maybe from a church or a university? At your age, becoming an adventurer, you must really like money. Normally people would want a more stable job, right?"

"Is that how it is?"

"Of course. I can understand young people wanting to become adventurers, but you've managed to learn recovery magic, and yet at your age, with that cheap equipment, you're working as an adventurer? People will definitely say you're no good. At least, that's the view of society."

"...I see."

"It's a waste of that kind of talent. Or are you bad at it? If that's how it is, maybe it can't be helped."

"No, well, I have some personal circumstances."

Apparently being able to use recovery magic meant that you could guarantee yourself some amount of social status. That explained why there was more demand than supply at the Adventurer's Guild.

"Well, you're still not too old, I think. Just don't chase after dreams forever; you need to find some proper work in the end. It would be good if you got a position in a church or something

quickly."

"Yeah, that's true."

I had no idea how finding a job worked in this country, but then, I didn't feel like I really understood that in my previous world either.

After talking to the lady at the store a bit more, I left. I'd finished my shopping without any event, apart from an unexpected conversation.

The sun (or sun-like object) was high in the sky.

(It's about time for lunch. I got hungry from all that walking around.)

"....."

I had nothing else to do that day, so there was no point in ignoring my hunger. After walking along the main street for a bit, I entered a restaurant that seemed popular.

"...oh."

After entering, I realized why it was so popular.

The waitress there was quickly going through the narrow spaces between tables with no time to rest. Looking at her, she was exceptionally beautiful.

(Wow, sexy. Dangerous.)

Most of the customers were glancing at her.

"One person today?"

"Ah, yes."

She had come over as soon as I'd entered. Up close, she was even more pretty.

Her face was model-class. She had blonde hair to her waist in a ponytail, was wearing a maid-style apron with long white socks and S-class

zettai ryouiki, and seemed about 20 years old. In any case, she was young and cute.

Her face was good, and so was her body. She had wide hips with an ass that could just barely be seen through her short skirt, and big boobs...

I got a twisty feeling in my stomach.

(Ahh, I want to do her...)

"Right this way, there's a seat open at the counter."

".....right."

She cheerfully guided me to a seat. Her smile was dazzling, and I

obediently followed and sat down.

(I haven't tasted the food,

but...this is a good restaurant.)

"Do you know what you want to order?"

She was staring at me from only a short distance away. Her big blue eyes made her face seem doll-like.

"Um, if you have a daily special or something you recommend, I'll take that."

"OK, one daily special!"

She energetically shouted the order to the kitchen, and someone replied to say they'd gotten it.

"Enjoy your meal."

After that short conversation, she quickly left to do something else. It wasn't a very large restaurant, but it was very busy and it seemed like she was the only waitress.

She went running towards another customer that was calling her. I watched her from behind as she hurried off, and saved that image for use later.

As I was keeping her ass in the corner of my vision, I heard part of a conversation between two young men at a nearby table.

"Yeah, the magic knight company's Shion-chan is more my style."

"What the heck, you lolicon."

"Hey, the value of a woman isn't about the size of her boobs and ass."

"You only like small ones, though. That's no good, man."

"Hey, it's all about their personality. I'm just not obsessed with looks like you are."

"Then Sophia-chan who's working here is pretty good, isn't she?"

"I can't deny that..."

They were talking about their preferences in women, and apparently, the pretty waitress working that night was called Sophia.

They had put a spear and a helm on the table while they ate, and were both wearing chainmail of the same design. I got the impression that they were soldiers on a lunch break. They seemed familiar, and I realized that the soldiers who threw me in jail had been wearing the same outfit.

"But Shion-chan is amazing. She's in her teens, and already the vice-commander of a division!"

"If you want to talk about that, Sophia-chan is the beautiful daughter of the best restaurant in town."

"Guh...I heard a rumor that Shion is going to become the commander soon..."

"Hey, let's just enjoy our lunch. Shion-chan is good too."

"Ugh...I haven't even seen her this past week."

"She has work to do, you know? A vice-commander wouldn't normally be around regular soldiers like us."

"But still, as her fan I worry about her."

"What's you worrying about her going to accomplish?"

"Hey, that's just who I am. It's human nature to worry about stuff, especially girls."

"You take it so far that you seem crazy though."

"That's how love is, man."

Those two soldiers in their mid-20s seemed to really get along well. Eating my lunch alone, I was kind of jealous.

back to index

Adventurer's Guild pt.5

The next day, I headed to the plaza by the south gate to meet the members of White Rain. There were many horse-like creatures with carriages lined up, so it was like meeting someone by a bus station.

When I got there, I saw them already waiting for me, and ran over.

"Sorry I'm late."

"No, we just got here a minute ago, don't worry about it."

Allen answered, with the other two people not even looking at me, which made me kind of sad. Working well together seemed like it would be difficult.

"Well then, let's get going."

"OK."

We were headed to the village where orcs were appearing. I followed Allen down the road to where they'd rented a carriage, and he led the party to a rather fancy looking cloth-covered carriage parked beside the road, which was hitched to two pseudo-horses.

Considering the Ester's silvery plate mail and the nice carriage, White Rain seemed to have a lot of money.

(Somebody here
must have rich parents, and I'm pretty sure it's this blonde loli.)

I was suspicious of where their money was coming from, but actually asking
about that seemed like a bad idea.

(I'd at least want to get to the
point where I could have a normal conversation with Ester and Sophie before
bringing up that kind of topic. My membership in their group could end after
this one time if I handle things badly.)

If possible, I wanted to
work with them more in the future.

"Do you have a minute, Tanaka?"

Not long after we'd entered the carriage, as the town was still receding
into the distance, Allen wanted to talk to me.

"Ah, yes, what is it?"

"If it's OK, I'd like to confirm the level of your recovery magic."

"Ah, I see."

(But how should I answer that?)

"What kind of an explanation are you looking for?"

(In my status window, it's
listed as Lv.MAX. Is that something I can actually tell them? Somehow I

doubt it.)

"A normal rank designation is fine. It's E-level, right?"

"Umm..."

I had no idea what kind of a rank designation I would have, but apparently that was something I supposed to know.

I just nodded and went along with his assumption.

"Yeah, it's about that level."

"I see. Understood."

(Yeah, lying was the best option there.)

I didn't know what "Rank E" involved, but I was confident that my magic was at least at that level. After all, it was max level. When it came to recovery magic, I shouldn't lose to anyone.

"That's basically useless. Rank E at your age, what have you been doing with your life?"

"No, well, um, various things?"

Ester delivered a direct hit without even knowing what it really meant to me.

Apparently, Rank E was low for someone my age. However, I couldn't take back what I'd just said, so I'd have to live with the situation.

"I'm sorry about my lack of skill."

I decided to just apologize without worrying about who was actually in the wrong.

"Well, Ester is about that level too. Let's just work together as a team."

At Allen's words, she turned away like she was bored and pouted a little bit.

"By the way, I was wondering if you can use that sword."

"Ah, this?"

He was looking at the short sword I'd bought the day before.

"It's for self-protection, or maybe decoration. I haven't even swung it yet."

"Ah, I see. Sorry about the weird question."

"No, no, I'm sorry about my misleading outfit."

I felt like I'd been apologizing for something continuously, which was probably because my position in this world was even lower than it had been in Japan.

(I
was satisfied just getting a sword and armor, but just having them probably doesn't amount to much. Maybe I should try raising my level a bit.)

Some time passed, with me sitting in silence while the carriage shook.

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"Goton, goton." The only sound was the carriage
wheels on the rough road.

(Well, this is awkward. I wonder if White
Rain would normally be having a vibrant conversation right now, and it's only because of this foreign material called "Tanaka" that everyone's silent.)

(But there's nothing I can do about that.)

Allen was partly lying down and seemed to be sleeping. Next to him, Ester had her arms
around her legs, and her face against her knees. Sophia was doing basically the same thing.

That left me as the only one with my head up.

"....."

My butt hurt.

The carriage had a flat wooden floor
with no seats, about 6 feet by 9 feet. It was kind of like riding in the bed of a pickup truck.

Between the oppressive silence and the discomfort of my rear, I was miserable.

"....."

I was starting to
regret going on this trip.

If I tried to start a conversation with
one of them, I'd have nothing to talk about. The culture and common knowledge was completely different from what I knew from Japan.

I
even envied the lone driver in front of the carriage.

Just as I was
about to start talking with nothing to talk about, the driver broke the silence.

"We'll be reaching a rest area soon, what do you want to
do?"

(Oh, it's time for lunch.)

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Lunch.

I'd had a solid breakfast at the inn, and because of the carriage's endless shaking, I hadn't been feeling very hungry. So, I figured that just having some dried meat I'd bought at the general store the day before would be fine for lunch.

However, the members of White Rain thought differently.

At the driver's announcement, Allen enthusiastically said, "Well then, let's prepare for lunch."

The carriage stopped in a grassy area beside the seemingly endless road, and the driver tied the pseudo-horses to some trees. Forest extended to both sides of the road, and around the clearing, so making the highway must have involved clearing a path through the forest.

"I'll go collect some firewood."

"No, that's not necessary. She'll handle the fire."

"Eh?"

Allen interrupted my offer, and gestured towards Sophie.

(I see, they use magic for that.)

"Um, what should I do, then...?"

"Some help with the cooking would be good."

"Ah, OK. I understand."

They seemed to have already worked out a system for preparing food.

I had no reason to eat my dried meat separately, so I decided to help with their cooking. It seemed like the cooking implements and utensils I'd bought the day before would be useful, so I was glad I got them.

(If someone saw me with my large bags of stuff in Tokyo, they'd definitely think I was homeless. Or rather, I actually am homeless; I can just afford to stay at an inn. It's a good thing we're traveling by carriage.)

(Maybe it would be good to consider what luggage I'm bringing a little more carefully next time.)

"Um, what about water?"

"Sophie can provide the water."

"I see, the water is from magic too."

(Magic is really useful.
I'd like to learn some magic that can produce drinking water at some point.)

"Um, I'd like to get some water..."

Sophie was standing nearby.

Ester was standing next to her, and she glared at me.

(Hey, I wasn't talking to you. I was talking to the person next to you.)

"In that

pot?"

"Ah, yes."

I handed her the pot, which White Rain had brought. It seemed new, not having any burn marks on it.

She held the pot with both hands, brought it to her chest, and started mumbling something

quietly while staring into the pot. It was really cute.

After a

little bit of that, the pot started filling up with water.

(Amazing.)

It was like a little water fountain going into the pot.

"Oh,

that's pretty useful."

"...yes. Here."

She handed the pot back to me.

It was 8/10 full, and heavy. The liquid inside was the same

weight as water, it didn't have any smell, and it was completely transparent.

(Yes, it's real water.)

"Thank you very much."

I gave her a nod before turning and setting the pot down. I started washing some vegetables with that water, peeling them as I went.

"Ah, magic is really useful."

"Definitely. I don't know what we'd do without Sophie."

"You have a good party."

While helping fix lunch, I finally managed to have a bit of conversation.

Thanks to Sophie-chan, not having a kitchen was not a problem.

I chopped vegetables I didn't know the name of with a "tontonton" noise, using a knife I'd just bought. I put the chopped vegetables into the bubbling pot, along with some of my dried meat.

"Um, you're pretty good with that kitchen knife, Tanaka, aren't you?"

Allen was watching me cut the vegetables, and seemed very surprised.

"It's a bit embarrassing, but I've lived

alone for a long time."

"Ah, I see."

The menu was something like pot-au-feu with bread.

(I don't know what any of these
vegetables are, but oh well, it's probably fine.)

I put away the
cooking equipment. Talking to Allen, this clearing dated back to when the highway was originally constructed, some hundreds of years ago. Apparently it was natural for an encampment like this to exist about half a day from a larger town.

"Um, is there anything else I can help with?"

"Ah, you could go get the plates and such."

"OK."

I got along
well with Allen.

On the other hand, Ester couldn't do anything but
watch the process. According to Allen, her cooking skills were a weapon of total culinary annihilation. And Sophie-chan was almost as bad, so Allen normally did all the cooking.

"Ah, I'm really glad that you can cook, Tanaka. It's a big help."

"No, I'm just glad I could be useful."

Allen was setting up plates with a smile.

Altogether, it took us
about 15 minutes to fix lunch.

Our dining table was the floor of the carriage. With White Rain, myself, and the driver, there were 5 people.

Still looking like she was in a bad mood, Ester offhandedly said,
"...it's pretty good."

"Really? Ah, I'm glad."

"Hmph!"

At my smile, she turned her face away from me pretentiously.

Having a
conversation with the two girls still seemed difficult. We all ate in
silence for a while, with the only noise being people chewing.

"Do
you have a minute, Tanaka?"

"Ah, yes, what is it?"

I looked over to Allen from my plate.

"Because you can use recovery magic, I
was wondering if you perhaps came from a church, or maybe studied at a

university."

"No, it's not like that."

This sounded like a conversation I'd had before. Thanks to that, I'd thought of a backstory for myself.

"You could say I'm a late bloomer; it's a bit embarrassing but I only registered at the guild at my age. Until then I was doing ordinary work in a town."

That was technically true.

"Is that so..."

"So, I realize that I'm new to adventuring and might cause you some trouble..."

"Ah, no, we're also beginners, so don't worry about it."

"Thanks, I really appreciate that."

After that, they didn't ask about my history again.

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After we ate, we continued riding the carriage.

After 3 more hours of riding, we finally arrived at our destination. According to

Allen, it had several hundred homes, which made it large for a village but still too small to be a town.

Once we arrived, we had free time until dark.

The orcs we'd come to deal with only appeared at night, invading farm fields and injuring any people in the area. So far, they'd never appeared during the day.

The first thing we needed to do was check-in at an inn, and leave our luggage there. The plan was to have one room for the men and one for the women.

(But personally, I wouldn't mind sharing a room with Ester and Sophie too.)

"Well then, let's meet back at the inn when it's time."

"OK, I got it."

We agreed to meet up again in an hour, and Allen left with the two girls.

(I wonder what they're going to be doing.)

I was a little curious, but I realized that I'd just be an annoyance if I tried to go with them.

Outside the inn, the neighborhood was quiet compared to the town that I'd been in. It felt like a farming village, and

with the men still at work, the population density was low.

I started walking with no particular destination in mind. Leaving the inn was fine, but thinking about it, there was really nothing for me to do.

(This was a mistake.)

I started heading back towards the inn.

(If the other people were staying in the inn too, that would be awkward, but they're definitely going to be out for a while. They seem to take having fun outside as seriously as fighting monsters, so they're probably having a lively conversation at a restaurant right now.)

I was still full from lunch, so I didn't really want to get dinner.

(If I get hungry, I can just have some of my dried meat.)

More than anything else, getting some sleep seemed like a good idea. Riding in a shaky carriage all day had left me feeling weak, and I was suddenly filled with the desire to lie down in a soft bed.

So, I decided to do exactly that.

I'd walked for a bit under an hour, doing one trip around the village and looking at some tool stores and bars as I passed by. The architecture was a lot like villages I'd seen in fantasy games.

My legs were getting tired when I got back to the inn.

I nodded to the manager as I passed, and headed back to my room. The first floor was mostly devoted to food, with everything

above that being rooms for customers.

The corridor creaked with a

"gishi gishi" sound as I walked.

"Ahh, I'm sleepy."

In front of my room, reaching towards the doorknob, I suddenly heard a noise from the

room next door, which the two girls were using.

"Ah, ah! Oh, Ares,

that's good, that feels good..."

"Ahh, it's good for me too."

"Hey, hey, do me too!"

"Hold on a second, I'll make you feel good

soon."

I was hearing some amazingly lewd voices.

(I think I hear a heart breaking, too. Oh, that's mine.)

"....."

Ah, more, more, deeper! More!

"Ahn! Ahn! Ahn! Ahn!"

"It's,

it's inside, it's big..."

"Ah? Ah, ah, aaah!"

I could hear the voices of two women and one man coming from the room. All of them were

voices I remembered.

(...seriously?)

(I should just pretend I didn't hear anything.)

I went back the way I came, as quietly as

possible.

That was too much for me. I left the inn, and walked back

to a bar that I'd passed earlier.

I sat down and ordered 4 or 5

drinks.

"Ahhh, delicious alcohol."

As the sun was setting, the bar started getting more busy. Men came in after they'd finished work,

drinking and singing some drinking songs. It wasn't a very large bar, and

about an hour after I'd entered it was a full house.

"Yuna-chan, one more!"

"Coming!"

"One for me too!"

"OK, just a second!"

She wasn't as much of a beauty as Sophia-chan at the bar in the town, but she was pretty. She was probably about 17, with brown hair to her shoulders, and more cute than beautiful. Watching as she hurried between customers and energetically answered each time one called her was kind of soothing.

She seemed to be something like the local idol of the town's older guys.

(...and she's probably the same way with her boyfriend at night.)

I continued sipping my foaming beer-ish drink. It seemed to have a fairly low alcohol content.

(I haven't seen any distilled alcoholic drinks in this world yet. Maybe the culture is about equivalent to Earth in the 10th century?

Looking at my drink, I'd finally managed to distract myself from some things I didn't want to think about.

Suddenly, the doors to the bar opened with a bang as someone stumbled in. At the same time, they shouted, "They, they're here! The orcs! Several of them!"

A man I didn't recognize was shouting with all his strength.

The bar was in a tumult as everyone got up and started talking at the same time.

"Seriously?"
"Why so soon?!"
"How many are there?!"
"Hey, what happened with that subjugation request?!"
"Get the women and children inside the houses!"
"Everyone, get a weapon and head to the east side!"

(It seems like it's time for us to get to work. Apparently the orcs are on the east side of the village.)

(I guess I have to get going, then.)

"Yuna-chan, yuna-chan!"

I called the waitress.

"Um, um, sir, the orcs..."

"Here's the payment."

"Ah, yes..."

"Keep the change."

"OK...?"

I dropped a silver on the counter as payment. As I got up, I said something like, "The drinks were delicious, so I'll stake my life on this fight."

(Oh yeah, that was so dandy.)

At that, Yuna-chan just stared at me, dumbfounded. I headed outside without minding her reaction.

Outside the bar, panic was spreading, with villagers running left and right.

(If it's like this, even the team at the inn should notice.)

(I'll get going then...)

I decided to head straight east.

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The orcs were bigger than I imagined, about 3 meters tall.

(They're wearing some animal pelts and using wooden clubs, so they obviously have some intelligence, too. But unlike that goblin, they

don't seem like I could have a conversation with them.)

The group of orcs was rampaging around one end of the village. It looked like there were

about 15 of them. Some men came running at them, and they were all struck down in two or three hits. On the ground, it looked like some women were being raped on the spot.

"...they're big."

The scene looked like a picture of Buddhist hell. Women's cries echoed in my ears.

(With this many, the men of the village probably don't have a chance.)

If I'd been sober, I probably would have stayed away and just watched.

"Hooooooooo!"

A group of orcs started running towards me with a

loud war cry.

I'd been told that they eat humans.

(Damn, here they come.)

(Maybe I can attack with that fire magic.)

passive:
magic recovery: Lv.Max
magic efficiency: Lv.Max
language skill: Lv.1

active:
recovery magic: Lv.Max
fire magic: Lv.1

remaining skill points: 0

(Shit, here I go...)

"Come on! My strongest magic!"

I put one fist forward and shouted. As I did, some kind of magic formation appeared at my feet. It glowed red, and had geometric figures inside a circle.

(Whoa, cool.)

As I was thinking that, light came off my arm from my hand to my elbow, and a fireball appeared in front of my hand, growing to 40 cm while pulsing like a beating heart and spitting out sparks.

It seemed like it would be a pretty effective attack.

"Go, damn it! Fireball!"

It fired.

I'd focused on the fireball with a mental image of a compressed ball of flame shooting like a pistol bullet.

And it worked.

As I'd
imagined, it hit the orc at a speed too high to follow with my eyes.
"Zudonnn." It exploded on impact, and the upper half of the orc was completely destroyed. For a moment, the surroundings lit up with reflected red light from the explosion.

Having lost half its body like that,
the rest of the orc fell down where it was standing and didn't move.

(Ah, it's that feeling again, I must have gained a level.)

name:
Tanaka
gender: male
race: human
level: 5
job: nothing in
particular
HP: 609/609
MP: 93500000/93500000
STR: 75
VIT: 60
DEX: 52
AGI: 42
INT: 5922000
LUC: 19

(My "LUC" stat doesn't seem to go up much. Is that basically the same as being unlucky?)

(Ah, if my level went up, I should have gained skill points. With this many enemies, it's probably bad if my only means of attacking is Lv.1.)

passive:
magic recovery: Lv.Max
magic efficiency: Lv.Max
language skill: Lv.1

active:
recovery magic: Lv.Max
fire magic: Lv.1

remaining skill points: 2

(Good, it went up.)

passive:
magic recovery: Lv.Max
magic efficiency: Lv.Max
language skill: Lv.1

active:
recovery magic: Lv.Max
fire magic: Lv.3

remaining skill points: 0

(OK, that should do.)

As I was thinking that, I heard several roars.

"Hooooooo!"

"Woooooo!" "Gwooooooo!"

All of the orcs were focused on me. They

started running towards me.

"....."

I checked the status of a random sample of them.

name:
gender: male
race: orc
level: 13
job:

HP：1420/1509
MP：0/0
STR：170
VIT：220
DEX：121
AGI：187
INT：20
LUC：88

name:
gender: male
race: orc
level: 13
job:

HP：1500/1809
MP：0/0
STR：220
VIT：190
DEX：101
AGI：177
INT：10
LUC：78

name:
gender: male
race: orc
level: 13
job:

HP：1220/1509
MP：0/0
STR：201
VIT：190
DEX：121
AGI：161
INT：29
LUC：38

Their stats seemed to be about the same. They all seemed stronger than that guy who'd thrown stuff at me in that tavern.

(Why is their HP so high? Because they're big?)

"Hah, small fry!"

I tried to

imagine a swarm of fireballs.

One fireball wasn't enough. I'd be KO'd in one hit by the next orc. Even so, I felt confident, thanks to the

alcohol.

"The hell I'm gonna die a virgin in my 30s!"

Instead of a single fireball, 12 or 13 popped into existence around my arm. I could

only manage one before, but now I'd raised the skill level.

They grew in size, up to about 1 meter each, spitting out spurts of flame like coronal

ejections from the sun.

(Wow, Lv.3 is impressive. Rather than

"fireball" it's more like "meteor storm". But I'm not going to complain as

long as it works. The important thing is the killing power. I've played

enough games to know that the best defense for a mage is a good offense.)

"HOOOOOOO!!"

An orc was within a few meters of me when I fired

them.

I fired them, and they hit the orcs almost instantly and

exploded. "ZUDONZUDONZUDONNN!" I could feel the ground shake slightly.

The fireballs exploded like cannonballs as they hit the orcs, with even

more power than the first one. Blood and orc flesh flew through the air and splattered on the ground.

"Ugh, gross..."

I got some on my new armor, too. Some piece of an orc had hit my leather armor, and looked like it left a permanent stain.

When the smoke and steam cleared, it looked like the orcs had been wiped out. None of the orcs were moving. Most of their bodies had been destroyed, and what was left looked like big lumps of some unknown meat.

"...is it over?"

(Good job, me.)

I finally lowered my arm.

"No, it's not over."

Some after-care still remained. Or rather, that was the main thing I was there for.

I headed towards some injured women lying on the ground.

(Maybe I'll get some side benefits after this...)

As I was walking over, I heard a huge roar.

"HOOOOOOOOOOo!!"

From the forest bordering the village, a single orc appeared. It was a different color from the other

orcs, with grey skin, and it was bigger, almost 5 meters tall. Its head was

above the shorter trees.

(It definitely seems like a boss monster.)

"....."

I stared at it for a while, but it didn't move.

(I should check its status.)

name: Gale
gender: male
race: high orc
level: 56
job: leader
HP: 20609/20609
MP: 100/100
STR: 7500
VIT: 9662
DEX: 6752
AGI: 9942
INT: 190
LUC: 1339

(This guy is dangerous! What the hell is this "Gale" guy? Even if he's a

boss, that status has to be a mistake! If his stats are an order of

magnitude higher than the orcs I fought, what does that mean?)

"It's a high, a high orc..."

The villagers behind me seemed to be going crazy.

"Why is there a high orc here?"
"Run! You can't fight that!"
"We have to abandon the village!"
"A horse, a fast horse!"
"We need to contact the knights!"
"Aaaaaaaugh!"

The villagers were panicking. I was starting to panic, too.

(How well does magic even work on this guy?)

Then, I heard some familiar voices from behind me.

"Tanaka!"

White Rain had arrived.

"Ah, you came."

I was focused on the orc, so I only gave them a glance. They came running towards me, but stopped when they saw the giant orc, their faces full of surprise and fear.

"High, high orc??"

Allen was muttering to himself.

"...why is it in a place like this?"

"That, that's a high orc? They're that big?"

They were completely terrified.

I was scared, too. Everyone was.

If fighting that was the job of
adventurers, it was a big job. After all, it was apparently an enemy that called for dispatching a division of professional knights from the country's army.

I exchanged a few words with the playboy behind me.

"Tanaka, what, what's the situation?"

"There's only one left. Let's
work hard, everyone."

(I'm not jealous, I shouldn't be jealous, I'm
definitely jealous. Of course I'm jealous.)

(I want a 3-player game
too, damn it.)

"Um, but..."

The blonde tsundere next to him was worried about Allen's safety.

(Ah, I want someone to worry about me like that too...)

I got jealous all over again.

"Tanaka, we should retreat! This is impossible with just us!"

"No, but, there are some unconscious people over there."

I gestured with my chin towards some young women on the ground. They'd been handled violently by the orcs,

and there were also some people with limbs bending the wrong way lying on the ground. I couldn't just run away under those circumstances.

"Even so! We have to call the knight corps!"

People kept talking about the knight corps.

"So, Tanaka, you need to retreat!"

But the enemy wasn't going to wait for that.

"HOOOOOOooo!"

The orc boss

howled and started running towards us. Its speed was much greater than the other orcs, and it accelerated towards us faster than a motorcycle. There was no way I could escape by running away, and that only left one option.

"Well, shit."

I created a fireball.

"Tanaka!"

"Hey...you..."

I heard the voices of White Rain's members behind me.

I ignored them and focused. Tens of fireballs appeared around my right arm as I concentrated, floating in the air and growing.

"Hah! Burn!"

I launched the fireballs.

(I was so cool there!)

They hit the orc and exploded.

"ZUDONZUDONZUdonn"

The explosions could definitely be heard from miles away.

(I want to cover my ears, but that would ruin my cool pose.)

I was standing with my right fist extended forwards and my left hand in my pocket, looking cool.

tanaka shoots fireballs

picture by みてみん

I couldn't see anything
through the dust and smoke.

(Alcohol is dangerous. I wouldn't have
done this if I was sober...)

"HOOOOOOOOOoooo!"

A howl came
from inside the haze.

(It's still alive? I hope that's the sound of
it dying, but...)

A second after that, it came, its huge body
piercing through the edge of the smoke and dust. It charged at me, reaching out its huge fist that was big enough to grab my torso. I tried to think of a way to escape or dodge, but my mind went blank.

I just stared at
it.

(Yeah, that's why magicians need a certain-kill attack.)

(Ah, I'm going to die.)

I just closed my eyes.

"....."

But the impact never came.

As I opened my eyes again, the wounded high orc fell to its knees and elbows, and a second later collapsed face-down onto the ground with a thud.

I'd just barely survived.

"....hah, easy."

My heart was beating loudly and my armpits were completely wet.

I slowly lowered the arm that I'd been holding out.

The nearby villagers started cheering.

(They're cheering. They're cheering for me! Because of what I did!)

It was the first time in my life that something like that had happened. The first time I'd felt that way.

It was a good feeling.

(Yes! I'm the greatest!)

"Tanaka!"

The members of White Rain rushed over.

"Ah, sorry
about that, I went ahead and finished things by myself."

(Acting
alone is bad for a team, after all.)

"No, that, that's fine..."

"Or rather...you can use attack magic too..."

"Well, compared to
my recovery magic it's low-level, though."

I still didn't know what
number "Max" was equivalent to.

"...I, I see."

That reminded me about the injured people lying on the ground. I turned and headed that
way.

"Ta, Tanaka?"

"I remembered something I needed to do."

"Ah..."

I hurried over to the victims. Checking their status, it
seemed that the having 0 HP meant they were dead, while anything more than
that meant that they were alive. Some of them had things like STDs or

poisoning listed, which got cured at the same time.

(Recovery magic
is good, but this status window is amazing too.)

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Shortly after I'd finished healing the injured people, the village chief
called for us.

I was led to a reception room, 16 square meters, with chairs and a table. There was some sort of tea in cups on the table. I took
one, and it had a good smell.

The members of White Rain were there
with me. Allen was next to me, with Ester next to him and Sophie next to
Ester.

The village chief was on the other side of the table. He
looked about 45 years old. He had an average build, and short light-brown
hair with a little bit of grey.

"Really, thank you very much."

The first thing he did was bow to us, almost touching the desk with his
head.

"Thanks to you, there were only a few casualties."

"That's good to hear."

"You really saved us."

"Ah, that's what the contract was for."

"But we never thought that a high orc would

appear..."

"Unexpected things can always happen. They managed to do a lot of damage, and I'm sorry about that."

Apparently 13 people had

died. In a village this size, that was a significant loss.

"No no no, there was certainly damage, but with that many orcs, they would have

destroyed the village through here if you haven't come."

I was still worried that they were going to try to claim reparations for damage the orcs

had done. I hadn't even read the request or contract; Allen had handled

that.

"No, Tanaka, we're the ones who should apologize."

"You must be tired. You can rest here at my house tonight."

"Ah, yes. But we already got rooms at an inn..."

"The rooms here are a bit bigger

than the inn's, so we can bring your luggage over here instead."

"Um, Allen, what do you want to do?"

"Er, ah, yes. That's fine, right?"

"In that case, thanks for your hospitality."

"You must all be
hungry after that. Dinner should be ready soon, and we've pulled out all the stops for today's meal."

"Ah, really? Thank you."

(Nice, it sounds like I can get a high-grade meal tonight.)

After that short
meeting, a number of villagers gathered in the chief's home to say thanks.

"Thank you."
"Thank you very much."

That went on for a while.
It was the first time I'd gotten that kind of treatment.

I was too
tired to really appreciate the food. After eating, I went straight to my room to sleep. The room setup was the same, with me and Allen in one room and Ester and Sophie in the other. Even if the village chief had a relatively nice house, it wasn't large enough for everyone to have an individual room.

(I could have had the inn room to myself, then...but that would be rude...)

(I think it's been over 10 years since I
shared a room with somebody. The last time I did that was probably when I
stayed in a friend's room in college.)

I started feeling a bit
nostalgic.

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"I'm really sorry about that, Tanaka."

"No, no, everything was fine in the end, so don't worry about it."

"But we were..."

"No, no..."

(Maybe I should ask him to
lend me Ester and Sophie for a night as an apology.)

(Once I get the payment from this job, I'm definitely going to find a brothel.)

"Tanaka, I think you should have the entire reward from this request."

"You don't have to go that far. There were various expenses you payed
for, after all."

"Don't worry about it. We can afford that kind of
thing."

"In that case, I'll gratefully accept. Sadly, I could use the money right now."

I was sitting on one bed, and across from me,
Allen, Ester, and Sophie were sitting on the other.

(I'd rather have two people on each side, though.)

Ester: "You, what was that magic?"

She was looking at me indignantly.

Tanaka: "...wasn't it
basically a fireball?"

Ester: "I've never heard of that!"

I'd answered honestly, and she suddenly yelled at me. Loudly.

"Ah, sorry about that."

"Your recovery magic too, there's no way that's rank E!"

(Wow, she can be really loud.)

"Yeah, I'm sorry about that."

"Hey, you, are you making fun of me here?!"

"Ester, he has his
own circumstances. Getting recklessly involved in someone else's personal
life is a bad idea. You have a thing or two like that yourself, don't you?"

"But, but..."

"Sorry, Tanaka. She's strong-willed, but she's a
good girl at heart, so don't think too badly of her."

"No, no, I'm
sorry about misleading you."

Ester looked like she was going to jump at me. With a bitter smile, Allen grabbed her arm at what seemed like the
last moment.

"Allen!"

"Well, calm down a little bit, Ester. We were saved by Tanaka too. You understand that, right?"

"But he, he
tricked me!"

"Ester, he's an adventurer, the same as us. And we just met him yesterday."

"That's...ummm..."

Ester was grumbling.

Unusually, Sophie said something.

"I have one question. Where did
you study magic?"

"Ah, yeah, that's right..."

(I hadn't
thought about that. I'll just have to make up something...)

Her
slightly scrunched-up face as she asked was cute, but now that I knew her relationship to Allen, her stock value had fallen in my view.

"I
prayed to god, and became able to do that."

(Yeah, that's kind of
true.)

"...god, you said? Specifically, what's the name of this god?"

(Did that god mention something like a name? Not that I remember...)

"No, I don't really know..."

"You were praying to a god you don't
know the name of?"

"Ehh, well, various things happened."

"...I see..."

I was starting to feel like Allen had the best personality
out of the group. Despite being a playboy.

I was still jealous.

"Well then, it's gotten late, so we should get some sleep."

"That's true."

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The next day, we headed back to the town, having finished the job.

The village chief's son was in the carriage with us, to report the damage to the town and the appearance of a high orc to some government official. He was in his mid-20s, and apparently he would become the village chief himself before too long.

"Gatan goton." Once again, the bumpy ride was making my butt hurt.

"Yeah, adventurers really are amazing. The best fighters in our village together could only handle one or two orcs, but you burnt a whole group of them in an instant."

He was really excited as he talked to us.

The death of 10-some people in the fight did nothing to dampen his enthusiasm. We'd been riding for an hour, but he showed no signs of stopping. Getting stared at by a young guy with stars in his eyes like that made me uncomfortable.

"No, well, I just barely managed. I thought I was going to die there."

I remembered that huge orc's fist almost reaching my face.

"Thank
you so much. We should have investigated better and told the guild about the size of the group and the possibility of a high orc being there."

"Ah, you're welcome."

"My daughter was actually there,
so...really...thank you very much..."

"Ah..."

(I see, that's why he's so enthusiastic.)

The trip back was uneventful. We stopped
at the same place again for lunch, and ate together with the driver.

We arrived back at the town when the sun was starting to set.

After
returning the carriage, our group of 5 people went to the adventurer's guild.

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"OK, I understand the situation."

With the village chief's representative and White Rain's members working

together, explaining what happened went smoother than I expected.

I'd been worried about how a chump like me claiming I defeated a strong monster

like a high orc would go, but that wasn't a problem. Having four

eyewitnesses made things a lot more credible to the macho bald guy at the

counter.

"The village's request underestimating the orcs was foolish, but I have to apologize for how the guild handled this situation. A high orc

appearing...that's the kind of blunder that might happen once a decade."

"I see."

"In this case, the guild will give you an additional

reward payment. But I need to consult with some other people at the guild,

so, I apologize, but can you come back tomorrow to get that? We'll give you

the original reward at the same time."

Allen: "Then, please give all of it to Tanaka."

"Eh, that too?"

(They should probably get some kind of reward just for being there.)

"We were there, but we

really just watched. Or rather, we couldn't have defeated a high orc

ourselves, so you saved our lives too..."

"You don't want to confirm the amount first?"

"...and so, please give all of it to Tanaka."

(He's a generous guy. It's also interesting how the two girls have zero interest in the money.)

"Well, if you say so, then that's fine."

(Don't look a gift horse in the mouth, right? Ester seems rich, so I shouldn't worry about it.)

back to index

Ex-Homeless pt.1

The next day, I headed back to the adventurer's guild.

I walked through the Western movie style wooden double doors, and headed straight to the counter. Once again, the same buff bald guy was there.

(It's kind of scary how he works energetically every day like that.)

"Oh, I was waiting for you."

"Hello, sorry to keep you waiting."

"You don't need to apologize for everything, it's annoying, ya know."

"Oh, sorry."

"...whatever, anyway, here's the payment."

He put a leather bag on the counter, and a metallic "charin" sound came from inside it.

"With the payment for the original request, the compensation for the bad information, and the reward for a high orc subjugation, the total is 16 gold. By the way, most of that is the reward for the high orc, which is 10 gold. The original request was one gold, and the compensation is 5 gold. The rule for the compensation is that it's half the reward for the subjugation, you see."

"...the high orcs are worth a lot."

"Pretty much. Normally a party would follow and surround one.

That would be a rank B party, and the payment would be 1 or 2 gold per person. They rarely appear near human settlements, so it takes time to get to them. With the necessary expenses, that's about how much it costs to get rid of one."

"I see."

"Getting there and back is usually a 10-day trip for a 5-member party. Out of the 2 gold per person, they'll need to spend 50 silver to 1 gold on supplies. If you add in the time to find it, it takes about half a month for one job. Whether 1 gold in half a month for that kind of work is a lot of money or too little, that depends on the person."

"It sounds like rank B parties can make a lot of money."

"Yeah, because there aren't many of them. There are only 10-some rank B

people around here. Rank C is a lot more common, but going up from there isn't ordinary no matter where you go."

"I see."

(That's what, $25,000 that rank B adventurers can make in a month? I can see why it's an attractive occupation. But yesterday I saw all too well that risking your life to make a living is no joke. Surviving until retirement would be tough.

I don't want to deal with something like that again. That high orc's fist was haunting my dreams last night.)

"A good hide from the high orc would have been worth a bit more, though. They have magic resistance, so they're worth a good bit of money. A perfect one would be worth about 20

gold, but it's hard to defeat a high orc without damaging its hide. It's hard to

get the hide off a dead one, too."

"I see, thank you very much for telling me about that."

"You, can you do something about the way you talk? I feel like yer making fun of me here. And I still can't believe you brought down a high orc by yourself."

"No, um, that's because you have a scary face..."

"...yeah?"

(Shit, I can't help it! I should try to talk more like the other adventurers. Or at least get used to this guy's face.)

"Ah, whatever, just hurry up and count it."

"OK."

(So this is gold? I think this is the first time I've handled solid gold. It really is heavy.)

I started thinking about how much those coins were worth.

"I've confirmed the amount."

"Take it with ya, then. Don't get taken by some scam artist."

"Right. Thank you very much."

"Also, from today on you're rank D.

Don't forget that."

"I went up two ranks?"

"That's because there was a high orc. If this was just a fluke, your rank will fall if you fail a request, so don't worry about that. By the way, if you fail 5

requests in a row, you get permanently expelled."

"OK, I understand.

Thank you."

"Bye then."

◇◆◇

(Now what do I do?)

I was worried about having so much cash on me. After thinking about it, I headed towards a place handling real estate. Being a typical Japanese person, with a large amount of money on hand, I started thinking about homes.

(I'd like to go to a Soapland too, but I can do that after getting a house.)

For some years, I'd barely been able to afford rent. Actually owning a home was some kind of legend.

Using my Google Maps substitute called "asking a random little girl" I located a real estate office, and a few minutes later I arrived. I entered the building, with a bell ringing as I opened the door.

"Excuse me, I'm looking to purchase a house..."

"Ah, welcome."

The employee there was a human, a European man about my age. He had short light-brown hair, and he was tall, about 190 cm, which made me jealous.

"I'm looking for a single-unit house, something around 15 gold."

"15 gold, you say?

Well, that's tough..."

"Is that so..."

(The town is surrounded by tall walls, so the area available for houses is limited. Maybe that makes for high prices? But I was hoping to have my own house, and a big dog...)

"Ah, hold on. There is one house that might work."

"Really?"

"The floor plan is a bit unusual, does that bother you?"

"No, that's fine."

(Lucky!)

I jumped at the opportunity.

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I was led to a detached building on the corner of a busy street, and we went inside.

"That's a big dirt floor, huh."

Weird items were tightly packed along the walls of a large open floor. There were

Fresco-style glass bottles, wooden stands, and metal lockers.

(What the heck...)

The total floor area was around 100 square meters.

On one side of the dirt floor, there was a long counter like I'd seen in the shops I'd visited.

"Ah, everything here comes with the place. Until the year before last, an alchemist was living here. The 1st floor was a shop and atelier, and there's living space on the 2nd and 3rd floors. It's a well-made building."

"I see. By the way, how much would a typical house normally be in this town? Everyone I've asked seems to tell me

something a little different."

"Let's see. For a detached house, even if it's small or in bad shape you'd need at least 20 gold. And by the way, in this area here, a house would normally be 50 to 100 gold."

"Eh?

Then this place..."

"Well, it has what you might call an interesting history. The last owner sold it two days after they bought it."

"Seriously?"

(Is it like those houses where somebody committed

suicide and nobody wants to buy them?)

"What was their reason for selling it?"

"...ghosts, they said."

"Eh? Ghosts?"

"The ghost of that alchemist, supposedly."

"Ahh...was it a suicide?"

"I heard it was a natural death."

"Hah..."

"They died suddenly, and some relative wanted to sell it in a few days, so we got a good price on it. At the time, it seemed like an easy profit. Well, if that kind of thing bothers you, you'd be better off not buying this one."

"I see."

(Getting a cheap house in Japan because of something like that is like finding buried treasure. This is some good luck. If a ghost actually appears, I'd just be happy to have some company. Not being homeless is far more important than that sort of thing.)

"How much is it?"

"16 gold."

"I understand. I'll buy it."

(That's perfect for me, I have just enough. The money from the herbs that goblin collected should be enough to live on until I can earn some more money. But now I can't go to Soapland.)

"People always say that at first."

"No, I'm not bothered by that sort of thing."

"People always say that at first. But let's head back to the office and draw up a contract."

"OK."

And so, I bought a house much faster than I'd expected.

(A house! My own address!)

I was very happy.

◇◆◇

The paperwork for the purchase was finished quickly.

I carried my few belongings from my room at the inn over to my new home, and I was done moving in under an hour.

(From today on, I'm the owner of my own castle.)

It was a dream that hadn't come true before I died.

(Now, I just need to get a big dog.)

(A golden retriever would be good. A golden retriever...)

I'd bought a 3-storey stone building with the ground level having a dirt floor and 80% of the space behind a long counter. It had been the atelier of an alchemist.

(It's good that the situation was easy to understand for someone who didn't grow up here. So far, everything's followed the rules of fantasy settings.)

The ground floor made me think of a small pharmacy, with just enough space in front for people to buy things.

(But the products were made with a

fantasy-style process.)

The floor size of the 2nd and 3rd floors was the same as the 1st floor, about 100 square meters each. It was more than enough for one person. The second floor had a restroom with a bath and toilet, a dining room/kitchen, and a living room or reception room. On the third floor, there were two bedrooms.

All the rooms still had furniture in them, so the house was already livable. There was dust, but not too much.

(It's splendid, isn't it?)

My heart was jumping with excitement. I started feeling tempted to try some alchemy the next day.

(First, I need to buy whatever I need to live here.)

As I headed out, I remembered when I first started living alone and bought lots of stuff at a 100-yen shop, most of which turned out to be unnecessary.

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It was shortly before noon when I finished buying supplies.

I got lunch at a restaurant that was too mediocre to leave much

impression when I was focused on something else.

After I returned, I spent several hours cleaning. According to the real estate agent, the

previous buyers leaving in a hurry tended to leave some cleaning that needed to be done.

The sun was just starting to set when I'd finished cleaning and organizing my stuff.

(A fantasy house. An atelier. It looks great. I made a good decision buying this.)

The cleaning and moving was the most exercise I'd gotten in a while, so I was getting hungry.

(...I'll go get some dinner, then.)

I decided to go back to that tavern with the hot waitress.

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She was working there again that night. Her figure with an apron, plus the bouncing and swaying as she hurried back and forth, was a satisfactory amount of

sexiness.

"Sophia-chan, another one for me too!"

"Right!"

(Ahh, she's cute.)

The shaking of her blonde ponytail was another charm point.

"Ahh, I can't get enough."

Because of her, I kept ordering more drinks.

(Alcohol is humanity's friend. How could I abandon a friend?)

The food was decent, too.

Sophia

energetically answered each customer's call, but it was so loud that I had to strain my ears to hear her cute voice.

(This was a good day. I'll be able to sleep happily tonight.)

As I was sipping my drink and happily not thinking about anything at all, I heard someone shouting behind me, and the tavern grew quiet. I turned around, still smiling slightly.

"Didn't you hear what I said?!"

"No, um, but that's..."

Sophie was facing a man dressed extravagantly, with a bright cloak on his back. His shouting echoed in the tavern.

(Oh. A noble, right?)

He was a good-looking man for his age, with a short hair and a large handlebar mustache, both blond.

"Just because you're pretty, don't think you're special!"

"I, I'm very sorry..."

Sophia-chan looked panicked, and bowed to the noble. Her long high ponytail flipped over and hit him in the face.

"Gah! My eyes!"

"I, I, I'm so sorry!"

(Ponytail Attack, critical hit.)

Some of the customers watching laughed unintentionally. Thanks to that, he was getting even angrier.

"You bitch! Maybe I need to take you into custody at my mansion!"

"I'm so sorry! Please forgive me!"

"Someone needs to teach you a lesson about what happens when you insult a noble!"

"That's..."

Her face was completely white.

(This is bad. When a noble finds fault with a town girl, in the next chapter he's fucking her. If she gets carried off by some aristocrat, it will be good-bye to her boobs and ass for all of us commoners. Bad End.)

He grabbed Sophia's arm.

(Oh, there it is.)

Everyone in the tavern was watching.

(A noble is the same kind of absolute existence to commoners that a division chief is to ordinary employees, right?)

I remembered once hearing something like, "If you don't want your wife and kids to end up homeless, you'll listen to what I say." Several times, I'd wished I could punch that division chief from my company in the face.

(Ah, rather than a punch, now it would have to be a fireball.)

"Hey, hey, wait a minute."

I got up from my seat, and walked towards the dandy noble.

"You're being too hard on her, how about you stop?"

(Ah, I'm so cool. I'm a hero of justice! That coercive yet kind phrasing was perfect, too.)

"I don't know if you're a noble or what, grabbing a woman like that is something that even those orcs could do. Are nobles a bunch of barbarians worse than orcs, huh?"

"What, you, you bastard!"

He drew a sword. Apparently his pride was high.

"Let go of her, and try using your words if you want to invite her somewhere. If you don't know human language, I might be generous enough to teach you. Your legs seem to work, so you could probably manage."

"You, who the hell do you think I am?"

"I. Don't.

Care."

(The mood of the other people here seems weird. Eh, don't worry about it.)

The noble's face was redder with anger than if he was drunk.

"If you continue, my Super Fireball will burn your bones until only ash remains. But I'm kind, so the explosion will kill you before you can realize you're dead."

"Pa-chin."

For the sake of appearances, I snapped my fingers. At the same time, balls of flame appeared around the man, each about the size of a volleyball.

They spewed puffs of flame, and I could feel the air temperature rising. One of the puffs of flame burnt a little bit of the noble's hair.

"Killing you would be easier than finishing my drink. If I snap my fingers again, your existence will completely disappear from the world."

I couldn't help smiling at how cool I was. Meanwhile, a magic formation had appeared at my feet at some point.

(Ah yes, the special effects are important too!)

"If you want to challenge the Noble Magician Fouren, then go ahead and try! You think I'll be defeated by 10 or 20 fireballs? Fool!"

He started glowing slightly.

(Magic nobles? I didn't know about that.)

"Then say your prayers. Sayonara."

I snapped my fingers again.

I almost shot them like I had with the orcs, but at the last moment I remembered that the explosion from that would probably destroy the tavern.

Instead, one of the fireballs lightly touched his back.

"Gyaaa?! AAAAAAAaaaaAAaaaa!!"

He screamed, jumped forwards, and fell on his face. Then he started convulsing and foaming at the mouth.

His back was pitch-black, and part of it was missing. There was a strong smell like meat left on a grill until it burned.

"...seriously?!"

(Oh shit, I should have held back here!)

Sophia-chan started

screaming.

(It's going to be bad for me if this guy dies! I just bought a house, I can't leave!)

In a panic, I started using my recovery magic.

"HEALIIIIING!"

As I shouted, a magic formation appeared under the fallen noble.

His flesh and bones gradually appeared, and then his skin.

(There's still a hole in his clothes, but expecting clothes to get fixed would be unreasonable. Eh, don't worry about that, he's rich, he can get new clothes.)

"Ooohhhh, amazing, he's healing!"
"No way, those kinds of wounds..."
"I thought he was dead!"
"What kind of level is that?!"
"That's how it looks inside a person??"
"We should get out of here."
"Wow, amazing!"

The rest of the customers were watching as he was healed.

Finally, his consciousness returned.

"....????"

He jumped to his feet in a panic. Feeling his back with his hand, he became increasingly confused as he realized his wound was gone.

His lips shaking, he shouted

uncertainly, "Y-y-you bastard, I, I'll remember this?!"

He started running off before he'd finished shouting. He looked like he'd seen a ghost.

His face reminded me of a college student that had tried growing weed out of curiosity and got reported to the police the next day.

Nobody there spoke.

(I beat off the bad guy and saved the girl! What could be better than that?)

It was the first time in my life that I'd

completely rejected someone like that. It felt good.

"Hah, too weak."

I sat back down at my seat, and then I finished my drink, which helped with how my throat had gotten sore from that.

I was feeling good.

(Now if Sophia-chan just comes to say thanks, I won't need anything else. Ah, come on over, I'm waiting.)

My heart was thumping with the suspense as I waited for her.

Instead, it was a middle-aged man I didn't know who came over to me.

"Sir, I, I'm sorry, but we're closing now today..."

"Eh?"

(Hey, nobody asked for you.)

"Could you go ahead and pay the bill?"

"No, um, I wanted to stay a little longer."

"We really appreciate you saving our girl, but we need to prepare for tomorrow, so please, please, just leave."

Looking around, the rest of the customers were leaving in a hurry.

(They really are closing up.)

"Um, I, I understand."

(What the hell?

Damn it. I wanted a hug from Sophia-chan.)

"Well, I'll be going, then."

"Thank you very much."

I dropped a silver coin on the counter for payment, and left.

◇◆◇

(I didn't get to touch Sophia-chan. But still, I have a house! An excellent, amazing, sturdy house.)

I returned home from the tavern, and lying down on my fluffy bed was bliss. I was pleasantly drunk, and the room seemed to be swaying a little bit. It was kind of fun.

(Acting without worrying about the consequences is exhilarating! So much stress had built up over the years and years of holding back and fitting into society.)

"Ahhh, it's good, this..."

I stared at the unfamiliar ceiling and muttered to myself.

That's when the attack came.

"Get oooouuuut."

A voice came from somewhere.

At the same time, an icicle appeared over my head, and shot down, piercing the pillow beside my head. The icicle was about 30

cm long, and drill-shaped. While that happened, my sheets suddenly became ice-cold.

(If that hit me in the face, I definitely would have died!)

"Guh, seriously?!"

(Is this the revenge of that magic noble?)

I got up in the bed. In front of me, a transparent human was floating in the center of the room.

"Get oooouut."

More icicles appeared, floating around it.

"I won't lose to you!"

In a panic, I summoned fireballs around me, two fireballs for each icicle.

"Hey, wait!"

The ghost seemed to be panicking.

"You'll burn the house! Don't use fire here!"

"That's true!"

(This is my home!

A fire here is no joke!)

I started putting out the fireballs.

"You, are you an idiot?! You burned the wall there, didn't you? What have you

done?!"

"Nooo, my house! It's burnt!"

Indeed, part of a wall was blackened from a nearby fireball.

"It's my house! Not yours!"

"It's mine! My home! I bought it!"

(What is this thing? Is it an actual ghost?)

It looked like a human girl, about 140

cm tall and 13 years old, with golden hair and blue eyes. But it was

transparent enough to see the wall behind it. It also had pointed ears, like an elf. It had pale skin and was wearing a grey robe, and was pointing some sort of cane at me.

"Who are you, barging into someone's house like this?"

"I'm the owner! You're the one who's barging into someone's house."

"No, that's wrong. I did all the paperwork and legally bought this house. If you're going to try and claim it with force, then I'll fight you with all my strength."

"...bring it on. Let's fight to the death."

"Fine by me."

(As a Japanese person, my house is of absolute importance! As a Japanese man, a house has been my goal since I was born! Getting in my way now is unforgivable!)

"Then you can die!"

(I need something other than fire magic! Skill window, come on!)

passive:
magic recovery: Lv.Max
magic efficiency: Lv.Max
language skill: Lv.1

active:
recovery magic: Lv.Max
fire magic: Lv.3

remaining skill points: 5

My level had gone up from defeating the orcs, and I hadn't used the skill points yet.

(Something to destroy the enemy of my home is a worthy use of these!)

I mentally recited the muryoujukyou sutra, while the ghost summoned more and more icicles.

(There!)

passive:
magic recovery:
Lv.Max
magic efficiency: Lv.Max
language skill: Lv.1

active:

recovery magic:

Lv.Max

fire magic: Lv.3

purification magic: Lv.5

remaining skill points: 0

(Perfect!)

"Get out of my HOUUUUUSE!"

(This is my house. I live here.)
(Everything else is unnecessary.)
(Erase everything.)

"Guh?!"

A magic formation the size of the entire house appeared over the floor.

She started to say something, but that turned into a groan and she grabbed her head with her hands in pain. At the same time, the icicles went "pa-kin pa-kin" as they shattered into tiny fragments that disappeared.

"Gah, serioushly? I'm disappearing! Auuuu!"

"Then GET OUT! This is MY HOUSE!"

She flew outside through a solid glass window.

"Haaaa, good riddance."

I collapsed onto the bed and fell asleep, with the room spinning as I closed my eyes.

video:

Tanaka the Drunk Onmyouji

back to index

Ex-Homeless pt.2

I opened my eyes the next day with a bit of a headache, but it couldn't compare to the sense of satisfaction I felt at waking up in my very own house.

Nothing could have made me happier.

I went over the previous day in my head. My memory was a little fuzzy, but I remembered all the important points.

(Got money, check. Bought a house, check.

Defeated the evil noble harassing a town girl, check. Came home and defeated the evil spirit, check. Ahh, I feel like a Dragon Quest hero who just defeated the Demon Lord! I'm the hero of my own house.)

There was just one thing that I was unsatisfied about.

(I wanted to keep some points in reserve! What am I going to do with level 5 purification magic? Do I need to go fight some more monsters, now? I'd rather not. At least it'll be easy to deal with that ghost if it comes back. I did need something to fight it, and I didn't choose how many points to use. It's possible that I really did need level 5 magic for that ghost, and I didn't have time to check, but still, I should be more

careful in the future.)

Warm sunlight

shined through the window on me. The sun was gently welcoming me to a new day.

I rolled up in the sheets and did my best impression of an earthworm.

A few hours later, I woke up again.

(I think I'll get lunch. I don't know what exactly what time it is, but it's probably around lunchtime.)

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I decided to get lunch at Sophia-chan's place. At night it was a tavern, but during the day it was a restaurant.

(I wouldn't mind coming here every day. Ah, if I could do it with Sophia-chan once, I could die happy.)

I sat down, and the same unwanted middle-aged guy that I'd talked to the night before came over.

"Excuse me, I'll have a daily special."

"No, um, that's..."

His face was grim and pale.

"What's the problem?"

"I'm sorry, but today..."

(What the hell?)

"Um, I, excuse me..."

Sophia-chan finally came over and spoke to me.

"Um, I, what might it be?"

Not being used to talking to pretty girls, I couldn't help talking like that.

"I'm sorry, I'm really sorry."

"Eh? Um, why are you apologizing?"

"I'm sorry, but, please, could you not come here any more?"

She looked like she was about to cry.

"No, um, what?"

"We're just a small restaurant, and, and, if a noble-sama notices us, they can destroy it easily, so, I'm really, so s-sorry, but, so, don't come here, please."

She bowed to me, with her hands together in front of her, and her ponytail fell over her shoulder.

(Oh.

Apparently nobles are a bigger deal here than I realized.)

"I, I understand..."

(Apparently I messed up in my hurry to intervene yesterday. Would it have been better to pretend I didn't see anything?)

"I'm sorry. I'm so sorry."

She kept bowing to me without looking at my face.

"No, I'm, uh, sorry about the trouble."

(I just found it, and now I can't go to my favorite restaurant anymore.)

"I'll be going, then."

I got up and headed towards the exit. This sad series of events had about cancelled out the positive energy from sleeping in my own house.

◇◆◇

Not having anything important to do that day, I decided to take it easy at home. I got some take-out at a busy outdoor food stand, and brought it home. It was some kind of breast meat roasted on skewers, and was quite tasty.

I lied down and rolled around in my bed for a while, thinking about various things.

◇◆◇

I got up early the next day.

(This isn't good. I'll go bad if I just stay home all day.)

I decided to do some proper, respectable things that day, although I hadn't actually decided on anything specific to do.

Not having anything better to do, I did housework for a while. It was about mid-morning when I finished that.

I'd slept a lot the day before, so I still had plenty of energy.

Feeling satisfied at maintaining my own personal home, I heard someone knocking at the door.

"Kon kon kon kon."

"Excuse me! Hello!"

There was a familiar-sounding girl's voice calling for me. A small spark of hope flared inside of me.

I hurried down the stairs to the entrance, which had also been a storefront.

"Yes, who is it?"

As I'd hoped, it was my idol, the sexy Sophia-chan.

(How did she know I live here? Did she ask that real estate agent?)

"Ah, oh, thank goodness..."

When she saw my face, she looked relieved.

"Hello..."

(Why is she here? I have so many questions...)

"Um, would you like to come in?"

"No, um, please come with me!"

"...OK..."

(What?)

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She led me towards the restaurant where she worked. It was approaching noon, but I didn't see any customers inside.

"You..."

"Ho, you came."

It was the magic noble from the night before last. From that, I mostly understood the situation.

(She sold me out.)

I looked at her, and she looked away. I looked at the manager, and he looked away.

"Did you need me for something?"

"Yes, I need to talk to you for a bit."

"...talk, you say."

"There's a carriage over there. Get in."

"....."

Looking at Sophia, she seemed to be pleading for me to do what he said.

(Are the nobles here like yakuza in Kabuki-chou? Maybe this asshole was better off dead.)

"I understand."

"Then let's go."

On the way, there wasn't a single word of conversation.

◇◆◇

The carriage took us to a mansion.

(It's too big. My house would look small as an attachment to that thing. Is this guy a high-level noble?)

There was a gate by the road, with a wide path beyond it. The carriage went through the gate and along the path, then stopped, and we exited into a courtyard.

"Why are you bringing me here?"

"Your magic is impressive.

Especially your healing magic. Here, you're going to show it to me again."

"...."

(And what do I get out of this?)

"Hey, come here!"

He called over a nearby maid. A young girl, maybe 16 years old, hurried over, with a "patapatapata" as she ran. She was still holding some laundry.

"Yes, you called?"

"Stand there."

He pointed between him and me, and she obediently stood there.

He swung his arm, and both of her legs were cleanly cut off.

"Ehhh?!"

Her body fell onto the ground face up, while the sheets she was holding blossomed like a flower as they fell.

"AaaAAAAAAAAAA!"

She started violently screaming as she fell to the ground. Meanwhile, he grabbed her feet, and threw her cut-off legs. They flew through the air, then exploded just before they hit the ground.

"Seriously?!"

"Now, heal her."

He didn't look concerned at all.

"Eh?! Ah..."

She was bleeding violently from where her legs were cut, and would obviously die soon. I started healing her.

I didn't want to see a cute girl die in front of me.

A magic formation appeared under her, and her wounds started healing.

Her legs started regrowing, first bone, then muscle, then skin. Several seconds

later, she was completely healed.

"As I thought, it's excellent magic."

"No, hey, isn't that cruel?"

"Can you bring out that magic formation again?"

"Eh? I suppose..."

"Well?"

He raised his arm again and looked at me.

"No, that's not necessary."

"Oh? That's fine then."

He looked incredibly indifferent.

"In that case, you may leave now."

The maid ran off, screaming.

"If you'll accompany me a bit longer, I will forgive your insult the other day."

"....."

(What's going on?! Why does he want to see my magic?)

I felt bad for the maid, and my opinion of the noble couldn't be much lower, but I decided to show him my magic if he wanted to see it.

(This guy is insane, but if I can settle this thing by spending an hour or two with

him...? Well, I didn't have any plans today.)

Over and over, I created the magic circle in the courtyard.

From what he said while I was doing that, I learned that he was apparently one of the leading magicians and magic researchers in the country, and his father was a wealthy earl.

(Why was he getting drunk in a tavern like that the other day? He came there alone again today, too. He must just have a bohemian sort of personality.)

"Yes, excellent. I'll be recording this magic formation."

"I don't really mind..."

(He's so arrogant! And I get the impression that it's only because of my magical ability that he even treats me as a human being. He seems to think of non-magician commoners like Sophia-chan and that maid as livestock.)

He spent a while drawing the magic formation on a piece of paper. Once he finished, he nodded and looked satisfied.

"...can I go, now?"

"Stay for a meal. I should provide at least that much hospitality for a guest."

"Ah, thanks...?"

"Oh, and come again in one month."

"Eh?"

"One month should be enough for me to study this magic formation. "

"Um, no. Why would I..."

"...then, 50 gold for one day of cooperation, how about that?"

"Eh?

You're paying me?"

"Is that not enough for you?"

"No, that's fine..."

"Then it's decided. I'll provide a carriage, so come without fail. Understand?"

"Er, yes."

(That's a lot of money! Are all the nobles here like this?!)

He spent hours boastfully lecturing me about magic theory. My view of him shifted about halfway from "total monster" to "magic otaku that doesn't care about anything else" but I still spent the meal ready to use healing magic on myself if I felt weird. Looking around, the estate was more spartan than

I expected.

(Apparently he likes magic better than 3-course

meals and expensive art.)

When I finally left the mansion, the sun was setting, and by the time I arrived home it was already night.

(I knew something might happen if people noticed my healing magic, but I didn't expect this.)

I went to sleep, mentally exhausted.

◇◆◇

The next day, as I was cleaning the first floor, I noticed a book.

(This is...a manual for alchemy?)

I started reading through it. It was written in a simple enough way that I was able to understand most of it.

"I see, I see."

Instead of cleaning, I ended up sitting in a chair at the counter and enthusiastically reading.

On the last page, there was something interesting.

The elixir of youth.

Supposedly, drinking it would make a person 10 to 20 years younger.

"Amazing..."

However, the bottom of the page, where the recipe would be, was torn off.

I decided to try being an alchemist.

I started thinking about what I'd do if I could be young again.

I decided to try to make this elixir of youth.

I had the equipment. I had an atelier. I just had to get started.

back to index

Beginner Alchemist pt.1

(If I'd wanted to become a doctor, what would I have done? After a consultation with a high school teacher, I'd have gone to a university and studied at a medical facility. I'd take classes from professors. So what should I do to become an alchemist?)

. . .

"You should go to the school in town."

"I see. Where is it?"

"Ummm, you know, go over there, then go that way, then go this way again."

I gave the little girl a few copper coins for her help.

(These directions are always so vague. Am I really going to find anything from that? I wouldn't believe it if this system hadn't always worked so far.)

"OK, bye-bye!"

"Thanks."

She walked away energetically while smiling and humming.

(Ah, she's cute.)

I watched her walk away and disappear into a crowd, and noticed I was smiling too. I followed her directions, going over there, then that way, then this way again.

(I never expected there to be a school in the town. Looking back, I miss being in college. In high school I had cram school and homework at night. Then I had entrance exams to get into a university. After I graduated, I was working long hours as a salaryman. I don't know if I learned much in college, but isn't that fine? College was like the summer vacation of life.)

I somehow ended up at the school, feeling like someone in their 30s who was finally entering medical school.

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The solemn building in front of me looked like a cross between Buckingham Palace and a castle.

I walked through the large plaza in front, and went inside. Wandering around for about 10 minutes, I finally found a place like a ticket counter with a receptionist. Like most of the inside, it was made of marble. The woman there had a solemn, fixed expression. She was pretty, with long blonde hair and charming big eyes, and she was wearing tightly fitted clothes.

"Are you a new student?"

"Um, yes."

"We are one of the top schools of both this country and our allies, so it's understandable that you want to study here. But you should understand that with the entry fee, the class fees, and various other expenses, a certain amount of money is necessary."

(I knew that much. Even the maintenance on this building must cost a lot.)

"How much is it?"

"The entrance fee is 10 gold. Taking a class for a term is 5 gold. With various other fees, studying here for a year

typically costs 50 gold."

"Eh, 50 gold? Seriously?"

(That's even more expensive than universities in Japan!)

"As such, there are few commoners here, and they sold their property in order to pay for their education. Most of the students are nobles."

"Is that so..."

"I'm very sorry that your long travels have ended with this."

(Oh,

she thinks I travelled here from another country to study.)

"I

understand."

(That crazy magic noble said he'd give me 50 gold next month, which is just enough. How convenient. But I'm not spending enough

money to buy a house on classes for nobles that might not even help, and I'm not going to count on getting money from him. Maybe I'll just have to learn on my own.)

"Is there a different sort of school that I could go to?"

"Any institution of comparable quality to ours will have strict entry requirements. However, with a smaller local school or some sort of education cooperative, walk-in admission may be possible."

"I see..."

(She has an impressive ability to be polite and rude at the same time. Oh well, I should just leave.)

I turned and started walking towards the exit.

(Actually, why was I asking her? I should just use the little girl information network.)

As I was thinking about that, someone came around the corner and called out to me.

"Ho? Why is someone like you in a place like this?"

I remembered that boldly arrogant voice.

(It's *him*.)

"No, why are you here?"

"Why am I here? Because I teach here, of course! Are you a student here?"

(Suddenly, I don't feel bad about not being able to afford this place. Thanks.)

"No, I just decided not to enter. It's too expensive."

"It certainly is difficult for someone poor to enter.

That's exactly why this school is known internationally for its high class and nobility!"

"Oh yes, mixing poor and rich people together would cause all kinds of problems."

"Exactly!"

He started nodding.

(No, I don't really want to be your friend...)

The receptionist cut in, sounding slightly hysteric.

"...Fo, Fouren-sama?!"

"What?"

He looked towards her, and his tone turned cold.

"Um, is he your acquaintance, Fouren-sama?"

"Why else would I be talking to him?"

"Sorry for interrupting!"

She started bowing to him.

(So this is the standard noble-commoner relationship.)

"You,

what's your name?"

"Kkk..."

She was shaking, and looked like someone in a TV drama that had just been sentenced to death.

"Hey, hurry up."

"Sabrina..."

I started thinking about how I could intervene.

"Stopping him here was the correct decision. I'll see about getting you a promotion next month."

"Eh?"

"What, dissatisfied?"

"No, of course not! Thank you very much, sir!"

"I'll provide the money. Enter this school."

"That's really, too

much, I couldn't, and I might be so busy with classes that I couldn't come to your mansion..."

"Don't make me repeat myself."

"Riiight!"

The receptionist was still trembling.

"She will register you. I have a class now, so I'll be going."

(If I get more confident with my magic, is my personality going to become like that...? No, it definitely won't.)

"Then, this, here is the paperwork."

"Ah. Thanks."

◇◆◇

It happened to be at the start of a new term when I was admitted to the school.

The receptionist led me around to various places, where I was given thing after thing after thing. Talking to her, I learned that many of the students came from other allied countries, and that all the students lived in the school dorms.

(Living in the dorms here? No, I don't think so.)

Asking about the dorms, I found out that each student got a private room with a school-provided maid.

(How should I handle this? Simply not using the room they give me seems like the best option.)

Eventually, I'd collected everything, and the receptionist headed back towards her desk. I looked up where the alchemy

classes were held in a guide booklet, and started walking that way.

(Walking here from my house takes a bit over an hour. Going back and forth every day would be too much. If only I had a bicycle, that wouldn't be a problem. Oh, a bicycle might actually be possible. I should remember that.)

After a while, I reached a long hallway with several classrooms that seemed to be dedicated to alchemy. It seemed to be the time between classes when I arrived, with students going in and out.

(Can I just go into one, then? Eh, it's probably fine. What's the worst that could happen? It's probably just a lecture. One or two extra people won't stand out.)

The classroom was made of shiny marble, with inset patterns and letters made of glass and stones. It looked unnecessarily expensive. There were rows of wooden desks with fine craftsmanship and carved details, all facing towards the front. I sat down at a desk, as did most of the other students.

With the fancy desks, the marble building, and the noble students, it really felt like a fantasy school, even if the same thing could have been done in Japan.

"....."

The other students were all staring at me.

They were all young, mostly in their teens with a couple in their early 20s, and they all had fancy clothes. I stuck out like a sore thumb. My instincts about classes from my college days had betrayed me.

"...hello, nice to meet you."

I gave a group of them a nod.

(I should have sat closer to the exit.)

They started talking quietly to each other.

"Who's that old guy?"
"And how old is he?"
"He's not a teacher?"
"He's sitting down at a desk."
"What country is he from? His nose is too small."
"His skin is all yellow, like a lizardman."
"His face is so flat, too."

(I have a bad feeling about this.)

◇◆◇

The students kept talking like that until the teacher arrived, then they suddenly stopped. I wanted to just leave and go home, but the class was starting.

The students were still occasionally glancing at me. I tried to ignore them.

"I am the teacher for the second-year alchemy class, Lydia Nannuzzi."

I wrote down her name in a notebook I'd received.

"Let's get started immediately."

Lydia started talking.

"Perapera pera peraperapera pera peraperapera perapera
perapera. Perapera pera peraperapera pera pera perapera. Perapera
peraperapera peraperaperapera pera perapera perapera pera."

(She talks too fast! I can't understand what she's saying at all.)

I tried to write down some of what she was saying in the notebook, feeling like I was in the middle of a test I hadn't studied for.

(This all seems new to me, so there must be some good information in here.)

It was

several minutes later when I realized something.

(This is only part of the information in the book I read! She's just confusing!)

My hopes for learning alchemy at the school were deflating.

(Maybe I need to find a more advanced alchemy class...?)

"These ingredients can only be found in the southern wetlands. However, there are lizardmen and powerful monsters there, so alchemists join parties of adventurers to

collect them."

(Lizardmen, huh? Didn't someone say I looked like one, earlier?)

I had been serious when the class started, but I was

starting to get sleepy. Having returned to the college life that I'd missed and yearned for, I just wanted to go home and sleep.

"Does anyone here know what's necessary to raise the level of a mid-grade potion?"

At the university I'd gone to, grades were only based on exams. Students didn't want to get involved, so when a professor asked the class a question, nobody

would answer unless the professor asked a specific student to. During the class, I got to experience that unique kind of awkward silence a couple times.

By the time the class ended, I was leaning towards going home instead of attending more classes.

◇◆◇

Walking through the corridors, I encountered a certain blonde loli.

"...hey, wait, why are you here?"

Ester was dressed in a Middles Ages nobility sort of way, with colorful clothes and a cloak.

"Ah, well, as of today I'm a student here."

"Hmmmmmm? At your age?"

(You don't have to put it like that. I hope you get treated that way when you get to be my

age.)

"And why are you here?"

"I'm also a student here, obviously."

"Ah, I see."

"Were you a noble, then?"

"Eh?"

"There's no way that someone could pay the entrance fee here
from one job as an adventurer."

"I just happened to have a personal connection that got me admitted."

"The board of directors here
doesn't allow that sort of thing, though."

Her high-tension side of the conversation was drawing looks from passing students.

"Don't worry about it. And weren't you an adventurer too?"

"Don't compare me to you! I'm an adventurer, but before that I'm a noble!"

"Ah, is that so."

(I knew she had rich parents. Low-level adventurers don't
normally travel in nice carriages like that.)

"Well then, I have to get to class, so I'll be going."

"Hey, wait!"

I made a smooth escape from Ester by going to another alchemy class instead of going home.

◇◆◇

After the second alchemy class I went to ended,

classes were mostly over for the day, and I started walking home.

It had been over 10 years since I'd been in college, and I'd always thought of that time fondly. But unlike then, I had no friends my age there with me.

(It's just not the same without a friend here. And the material in those classes was...questionable. At the school's pace, getting to the elixir of youth would take more than a lifetime. I think the students there only take alchemy classes so they can keep up with conversations at dinner parties

with other nobles.)

I hadn't learned anything useful that wasn't in the book I'd read at home, and I hadn't seen a workshop for actually

practicing alchemy.

(For now, I'll just forget about the dorms and head home. I should try studying from the books there, instead. I don't

think I'll be going to those classes again, at least not for a while.)

◇◆◇

When I got back to my house, there were two soldiers standing in front of it, each holding a spear in one hand. They were taking turns knocking on the door loudly, "Kon kon, kon kon, kon kon."

(Why are they here? Is this about my jailbreak after I was arrested?!)

I heard them talking to each other between knocks.

"Do you think he's out, or just pretending to be?"

"I don't know, but we should keep trying. We'll get yelled at if we go back too soon with no results."

(I know my appearance is unusual here, but at the time, staying here and hoping they focused on that woman who was getting executed was my only choice. I could have died if I'd tried walking to another town.)

(Of course, I could have died in that forest, too. That did work out, but treating this like a RPG where I only needed to follow appropriate-looking quests was a huge mistake. I do have a status screen and skill points, which is very game-like, but I seem to be the only one with them, and I still don't know what they really mean.)

(I had been hoping that they didn't care about me. I have different clothes, and a rank as an adventurer, and I bought a house, and I think I lost some weight, so I was hoping I didn't seem like the same person. Maybe that was naive.)

(I still have enough money to get a carriage to another town. I could probably stay at that village with the orcs for a few days, and maybe even earn some money there.)

(No, I shouldn't assume that's why those soldiers are here. Maybe they're here about my fight with that noble. Wait, that might actually be worse. But I can't bring myself to just abandon my house now! I'll talk to the soldiers, and if I really, absolutely, definitely have to, I'll hit them with fireballs and leave town.)

"Hello, was there some incident with my house?"

"You're the owner here?"

"Yes, although I just moved in recently."

"We're here for the tax collection."

"Tax?"

"The sales tax, land tax, and interest. The taxes on this property haven't been payed for 7 years, so the total amount is 150 gold."

"Ehh?!"

Needing to pay some kind of tax was completely unexpected.

"Um, 150 gold, that's more than the property is worth!"

"People kept moving in and out here, so the taxes built up. I understand your complaint, but this is the system in our country. If you own a house, it's your obligation to pay taxes on it."

"If there were taxes due on it, why didn't you collect them from the people I bought this house from?"

"That's because property owned by nobles is exempt from those taxes."

"But I have to pay any back taxes if I buy it?"

"Right, the nobles wanted to discourage property going from nobles to commoners."

I felt like I'd been hit in the head with a hammer. This somehow seemed even worse than if they had actually come to arrest me.

(I let my guard down because it was fantasy! Argh, I never thought that I'd get manipulated like that! Taxes?! Fantasy doesn't need taxes!)

"Payment is due by the end of the month. If you're late, your house will be seized."

"What, the end of the month?!"

"It sounds like you were tricked by the real estate agent. People coming here from other countries seem to get taken by frauds more often. You should learn from this and do things properly in the future."

In my mind, I saw the smiling face of the real estate agent, and heard the voice of the bald guy from the guild telling me, "Don't get taken by some scam artist."

(He got me. I was completely fooled. No wonder it was cheap!)

"We'll come again at the end of the month. Get the money together by then."

After that, I stood outside for a couple minutes, just staring at my house.

◇◆◇

The first thing I did was buy a calendar at a nearby store.

I put it up on a wall and glared at it. 25 days remained until the end of the month.

(The tax payment doesn't match the building's value. I

remember that real estate agent telling me that most of the buildings in this area were 50 to 100 gold. If that's right, then if I payed the full amount, it would be enough to buy 2 houses here. Letting my house get seized would be the logical option. But I can't just give up on it! It's my house!)

(But there's no way I can realistically get 150 gold in a month. That's 15 high orcs worth of gold! I couldn't do that. For that matter, I don't know where I'd find them.)

(Should I try to borrow it from that magic noble? On the one hand, he definitely has the money, but on the other hand, no.)

(From now on, I'm not going to blindly trust someone again like I did with that real estate agent.)

I went down to the first floor, and looked at the bookshelves.

(Maybe there's something described in here that I can sell.)

◇◆◇

Reading through books in the atelier randomly, I noticed something.

Most of them were written by hand, probably by the same person, and probably in the same building I was living in.

Reading on, I realized their goal. They had been trying to cure a certain disease.

(They must not have made it in time.)

The handwriting towards the end of some of the books grew more and more erratic.

In the last entry I saw, a complicated process was described with a mixture of joy and sadness. At the end, there was a note: "I have identified the necessary materials for the medicine. But there is no way I can get the liver of a red dragon."

(...a dragon? I somehow thought dragons would exist here. Red dragons must be strong. If it says

"red dragon" then that must mean there are other colors too, like blue or yellow.)

The disease the author had was called "Alvecchio's Disease."

It gradually caused muscles to stop working, until eventually afflicted people died from not being able to breathe. The mortality rate was 100%,

with humans dying within 6 months of contracting it, and elves dying within 3 years.

It apparently had a magical component, like a curse, so recovery magic would only treat the symptoms, and the worse the disease got the faster the symptoms would return.

(This author was actually an amazing person. If I can, I'd like to finish their work and make this

medicine someday. But right now, I have other problems.)

Feeling sentimental, I looked out a window, and it was dark out. At some point, the magic lighting in the first floor had come on, so I hadn't even noticed.

(Was that automatic? I don't remember it turning on by itself before.

Maybe I turned it on and forgot about it because I was focused on reading.)

(...I'm hungry.)

I decided to go get dinner.

◇◆◇

I went to a small nearby restaurant, and ordered some food and drinks.

As I was eating, two adventurer-looking men in their 20s were talking near me.

"Seriously?! 1000 gold for one medicine?"

"It's true, it just arrived today."

"Still, Alvecchio's Disease? I don't think it matters how much you pay, nobody even knows what causes it."

"Come on, you know you're thinking about what you could do with 1000 gold."

"Of course I am. The king is notorious for being stingy, but I guess it's a different matter when it comes to the life of his only daughter."

(Alvecchio's Disease. They definitely said Alvecchio's Disease! It's a quest! It's a special event!)

I got up from my seat.

(Didn't I take down one of the country's top magicians easily? And I took down a high orc by myself, too.)

I went over to their table.

"Hey, you two."

"Eh? What is it, geezer?"

"I'd like to hear a little more about what you were discussing."

"Who are you? Is he someone you know?"

"I don't know him."

"Hey miss, a round of drinks for this table, on me."

◇◆◇

(Information GET!)

Apparently the king had a sick daughter. He'd hired the best doctors, but only learned the name of her disease, which was diagnosed by a certain magic noble.

A few days ago, he had finally offered a reward to anyone who could cure his daughter.

(I'll just have to make that medicine, then.)

All but one of the ingredients were either in the atelier's supplies or available in the town. The problem was the liver of a red dragon, the same thing that had stopped the author of those books.

I decided to go for a red dragon.

Thinking about it, I was filled with determination.

(I'm going to need more firepower.)

[cue determination music]

back to index

Beginner Alchemist pt.2 A

(What's needed to defeat a dragon? A sword that can cut

through steel? A shield that can repel its fiery breath? Some other kind of legendary item?)

. . .

"Friends you can trust, I think?"

The little girl smiled as she answered. I suddenly felt stupid, like an old friend had unknowingly mocked my future life plans.

"Yes, I see."

I gave her 3 copper coins, and watched as she energetically ran off.

(Friends, huh? When I was her age, making a friend was a much lighter thing than it feels like now. As I got older, it got harder, and now it didn't even cross my mind. I'd like to say that it's just hard to make friends with people from a different world, but honestly, it was my years as a salaryman that made me think that way.)

(Who would be trustworthy allies for hunting a dragon? I really don't know anyone. I'll have to

compromise on the "trustworthy" part and just talk to some adventurers that I know.)

(It's by adventuring and fighting together that you'd really build a relationship with people, anyway.)

(Oh, in that case, then what about him?)

I started jogging down the main street.

◇◆◇

Running towards the magic noble's mansion, I met someone on the street.

"Hey, you!"

"Geh?!"

It was the girl I'd been together with in the jail.

"Why are you here?! This isn't a place for a low-life criminal like you! Go back to the slums!"

It was indeed an area full of expensive homes, although even among them, the magic noble's mansion still stood out.

"Oh, I'm just visiting a friend..."

"A friend? You think I'd believe such an obvious lie?!"

"I don't really care if you believe me or not."

"I should send you back to jail myself right now!"

(I see she still doesn't listen to what people say.)

She gripped the sword at her hip. Unlike before, she was fully equipped and

looked like a proper knight.

(Did she clear herself of whatever she was charged with?)

"Come with me to that house there, and if they don't know me I'll go with you to the jail."

"Buying time for your escape? I won't be fooled so easily."

(Well, I tried. Hmm, this somehow feels refreshing...)

Someone called out from a passing carriage, which stopped next to us.

"Ho, what are you doing here?"

It was the magic noble. You could really tell he was rich from his fancy two-horse carriage.

(Considering the time, he must be heading to the school.)

"I was actually looking for you."

"You have some business with me?"

"That's right, could I have a bit of your time?"

"If that's how it is, then get in. We can talk in my room at the academy, or as we ride."

"Thanks, I'll do that then."

He looked over to the female knight, who was standing there with her mouth partly open.

"Is that knight your attendant?"

"Er, no, there was just a bit of a misunderstanding..."

"A misunderstanding?"

Hearing that, she bowed to the noble.

"I, I'm very sorry. I am Mercedes Aragon, third Royal Knights Division, second company. Good day, your Excellency."

He looked back over to me.

"What, you're connected to this country's knights?"

(This magic noble guy is "your Excellency?" Hah.)

"She had been going on about various things, and saying she wanted to arrest me."

"Were you guilty of something?"

"I didn't do anything. It was just a coincidental misunderstanding."

"I don't know the circumstances, but in that case, you get in the carriage as well, knight. We can discuss this matter inside. Waiting around here is a waste of time."

"That sounds good."

I started getting into the carriage. The interior was as luxurious as I expected.

"I, um, me?!"

I looked behind me and she seemed to be wilting.

"Hurry up and get in, this is wasting time."

"Yes sir!"

She hurried into the carriage, looking stressed.

◇◆◇

With everyone inside, the carriage started moving. Even a luxurious carriage had no suspension, so it was shaking as usual.

The seating was two padded benches facing each other, with a small table in the center. I was next to Mercedes.

"If you're going out of your way to visit me, then this must not be a trifling matter. If some privacy is needed, we can

discuss this in my room at the academy."

We both looked at her.

She was drawing her shoulders in and biting her lip a little bit,

looking nervous. It was a big change from when she'd been threatening me with a sword in an alley.

(She's a lot cuter like that...)

"The knight corps here, are they fairly strong?"

"The royal knight corps?"

"Hmm, you must not be from around this area, asking a question like that."

"That's true..."

I started to wonder if I should have asked that question.

"If the circumstances were right, I could probably dispose of a division of them myself."

"I see, so they're not very strong."

"Knights are no match for magic, after all."

(That's unfortunate. I had been thinking about inviting her into a party for hunting a dragon, but it sounds like she'd only be helpful as a baggage carrier.)

(But then, a baggage carrier is still

necessary. And it would be sad for the party to only have men in it. A cute girl or two would be good, and she's perfect.)

"Well, I'd like her to hear this too."

"Is that so? In that case, I don't mind."

"The princess's disease, I heard you did the diagnosis."

"...your ears are sharp, hmm?"

"Not really, it's being talked about in town."

"Ah yes, they did put out some public proclamation recently..."

(Ah, the rumors I heard from those young men in that bar were accurate.

Excellent.)

"Could you give me some more details about that?"

"Yes, last month I was summoned to the palace and did the diagnosis. When I received the emergency summons, I certainly hadn't expected that to be the reason."

"Can you tell me exactly when the princess fell ill? And if possible, the details of her condition?"

"You, impossible..."

His slightly sleepy eyes opened wide.

"A disease that causes all the muscles to stop moving, gradually weakening the patient, until they die from being unable to breathe. 100% lethal. Humans die within 6 months, and elves within 3 years. Something like that?"

I acted like what I'd read the other day was my own discovery.

"Hahahaha! Interesting! Very

interesting! If you've said that much, then you already have a treatment, don't you?!"

"Yes, it's definitely here."

I tapped my head with my finger.

(It really is. I have a good memory for things that caught my interest like that, and that book was easy to understand.)

"Ah, what a happy turn of events, that you decided to rely on me for this.

I'm feeling shivers of excitement despite my age! Hurry up and get to the main issue. The noble magician Gremoria Faren will work together with you."

"I'm glad you see things that way. But there is one point to note."

"What? Hurry up."

"Once you've heard my explanation, there's no backing out."

"Very well. Where else am I going to find something as exciting?!"

"I understand. Also, the same goes for you, Mercedes."

"I can arrange something with the knight corps myself, if you need a knight or two. Hurry up and finish what you were saying!"

I had never seen the magic noble so excited.

(Considering his pride, he's unlikely to back out now. But honestly, I have no idea exactly how difficult it is to defeat a dragon. I just know it was too hard for the author of that book. So, the more allies I can find, the better.)

Mercedes had been drawn into participating with no real chance to object. She had teary eyes, and was tense, with her hands in fists. It made me want to bully her even more.

"I already have most of the materials for the treatment."

"So, you need help collecting the rest?"

"Yes, the last one."

"What is this last ingredient?"

"The liver of a red dragon."

Mercedes brought her head down towards her knees with her mouth open, and started shaking.

"A red, a red dragon?! Even if it's for the life of the princess, it's impossible! You'll die!"

(Yes, apparently they're rather strong.)

She started muttering, "The life of the princess, the life of the princess..."

The magic noble's response was completely different.

"Ah, did I get myself into hunting a dragon at my age?"

"How long has the princess been sick now?"

"My understanding is that it was in April."

"She doesn't have very long to live, then."

"Yes, when I saw her, she was already unable to stand. I was told that her body was never very strong, and it's possible that she will survive less than three months."

(Apparently the princess is likely to die even sooner than my tax payment would be due. I'll need to hurry.)

"Then, I apologize for the imposition, but I'd like to gather a party and leave as soon as possible."

"Very well. The word of a Noble Magician is absolute."

"I'll take your word on that, then."

"But of course. I am still on active duty as a magician of the imperial court. One or two dragons are no match for my magic!"

(Like I thought, he's hot-blooded.)

"Can I leave the preparations for the journey to you, too?"

"Yes, leave that to me. I will have them complete within a day or two. Until then, you should collect whatever allies you need."

"Understood."

(Excellent, I got this magic noble to help! And I found someone to carry luggage, too.)

"Also, I'd like to have this knight help with carrying luggage and such. Can I leave the

paperwork needed for that to you?"

"Not a problem. I'll contact the leader of the knights."

"Thanks."

"Ehh, I, why me..."

"Did you have some objection to the honor of joining a Noble Magician for a dragon hunt?"

He glared at her, and she went silent.

"Well then, I'll go to your mansion tomorrow morning. I'll be counting on your for various things."

"Duly noted. Look forward to it."

(Everything's going smoothly so far. If I'm a priest and this noble is a mage, then maybe next we need a "warrior" or "hero" type member?)

As the carriage moved along, the academy came into view. Not long after that, we arrived. A bit past the front gate, the pseudo-horses pulling the carriage stopped.

"I'll be in my study. Contact me if something happens."

"Right. I'll be looking around the academy for a bit."

"Understood. Good day, then."

Just after he started walking, he turned around and looked at Mercedes.

"Ah, you come with me. Some paperwork must be done."

"Yes sir."

He walked off, and she followed.

Her behavior was totally different from when we'd escaped from that jail.

(Now then, time to look for some more allies.)

◇◆◇

(But who would be good? I'm not sure. For now, I'll just look around here while I think about it.)

(Well, I only

personally know a few people in this world. And one of them is a student here. But I'd rather not be involved with them.)

(Oh, there's one now.)

She was walking proudly down the corridor, but with her flat chest and short height she seemed like a child trying to look adult.

"Muh, you again!"

She ran over to me.

"Hello, good day."

"How dare you run away like that yesterday?! I wasn't finished talking to you!"

"What a coincidence. I wanted to talk to you too."

"...you had some business with me?"

"Yeah, could you help hunt a dragon?"

"Eh? A, um, dragon?"

"Right, your handsome boyfriend and your hooded friend can come too."

"Hey, wait! Why are you suddenly talking about a dragon?!"

She was cute when she was suddenly confused like that. Her innocence made me feel like she should be a pure virgin, but of course, she wasn't.

"For the details you can talk to that magic noble, he's handling that stuff. Ah, and we're departing tomorrow morning, so if you could get your preparations done soon, that would be great."

"What are you talking about? Why dragons?!"

"Well then, I have some other places to visit, so I'll be going. Oh, and what I just told you, it might be dangerous if others heard about it, so don't go telling other people for no reason."

"Hey, no, wait!"

I walked off quickly. She tried to follow me, but because of how she was dressed, I lost her when I went down some stairs.

◇◆◇

Not having anything else to do at the academy, I headed back out to the town. It was about time for lunch, and I was hungry.

(Finding allies is important, but food is important too. Now then, where should I eat?)

Thinking about it, I remembered the restaurant where the beautiful Sophia-chan worked.

(I already worked everything out with that magic noble, so there's no problem if I go there now, right? Some tasty beer with a nice view sounds good to me.)

I started walking over that way.

◇◆◇

As I entered, my stomach growled, but it was drowned out by the loud conversations in the mostly-full restaurant.

"Welco....."

Sophia was near the entrance, and as she realized who I was, her bright smile turned to something like disgust almost instantly.

(Wow, that's actually kind of impressive.)

"Hello, it's been a while, hasn't it?

I'll have a daily special."

She stood there frozen as I walked past her and sat down at the counter, then ran into the kitchen.

I could hear her arguing with a man in there.

Shortly after that, Sophia and the man I remembered from before came over to my seat.

"Um, sir, I'm sorry but, we discussed this before..."

Sophia was sort of hiding behind him.

"Ah yes, I already resolved that issue. I worked things out with that noble, and now our relationship is such that he's invited me over to his mansion for a meal. So, there's no problem if I come here, right?"

"That's ridiculous..."

"Coming back here safely to eat is evidence enough, isn't it?"

"I see..."

At that, the owner-looking man gave me a cramped smile.

"I'm sorry about the inconvenience; your meal will be ready shortly."

His voice was shaking a little bit.

"Sophia, you handle his orders. Understand?"

"Eh?! But, but, dad..."

"I'm going to be busy cooking!"

With that, he went back into the kitchen, leaving Sophia there with me.

Sophia just stood there, silent.

"Ah, hello, long time no see.

Thanks for going all the way to my house to contact me the other day; that really helped move things along."

"...kuh..."

"Um, I apologize for the rude question, but are you a noble?"

"A noble? No, no."

"Eh? Then, but, why?"

"We're both magic enthusiasts, so once we had a chance to talk we became good friends."

"Ehh?"

"So, I'll be coming back here in the future."

She made a look of disgust for just a moment.

As the conversation went on, my mood was improving.

(Ah, I've found a new way to enjoy Sophia-chan.)

I tried to keep a conversation going, but she only made various noises in response.

She was still there when the owner came back with my food. He'd finished it as quickly as a fast food restaurant, probably ignoring all the other customer's orders.

"This is, um, today's lunch."

"Ah, thanks."

Some of the other customers were staring at me.

"It looks good."

"No no, our food is very plain."

"....."

"Please, forgive us for the other day."

"No, don't worry about it so much."

"If there's anything we can do to apologize, we'll do it, anything at all."

The owner was bowing to me.

At that, I had an idea.

"Oh, in that case..."

(I don't know where a red dragon would be, but it's probably more than a day or two away from here. In that case, we'll need someone to cook during the trip. I can cook to some extent, but meals made by a pretty girl would definitely taste better.)

"...lend me

Sophia-chan for a little bit."

"Ehh??"

The faces of the owner and Sophia went pale in tandem.

"The day after tomorrow, I'm going on a bit of a trip, and I'd like Sophia to do the cooking. That magic noble is coming too, and I'm sure he'd be happy to have her around."

"But, that's..."

(I'm not sure if that's actually true, but I want her to come.)

"So, can you please come with us, Sophia?"

The owner seemed to be thinking.

"...she's important for this restaurant, though."

Next to him, Sophia-chan started acting like she was about to cry.

"Important? Well, I could get a written authorization or two if that would help."

"I see. In that case, I'll lending you my daughter Sophia at that time."

(Nice, Sophia-chan

GET!)

"But, father?!"

"Sophia. I'm sorry, I'm sorry but, it's for the sake of the family business..."

(Wow, maybe it's strange for me to say this, but that's pretty cold treatment for a father to give his

daughter.)

"In that case, please come to Lord Faren's mansion tomorrow morning."

"I, yes..."

Sophia was facing her father and crying as she answered.

(OK, that's another companion for the quest secured. Hmm, they seem to think of this as something like Yakuza abducting a girl because of her parents' debt in a soap opera. I could explain the misunderstanding, but watching Sophia's expressions is

entertaining.)

"Then, enjoy, um, enjoy your meal."

With that, the owner went back to the kitchen, leaving me and Sophia there. She was standing there, staring at her feet.

"Ah, the lunch today is good, isn't it? What's this dish called?"

I gestured towards it.

She looked over to me with dead eyes, and muttered, "...Mokori stir-fry with cilantro."

Looking at her for a second left me feeling like I'd just had a staring contest with a rotting fish.

A "mokori" in this world was a cow-like beast that could be milked or eaten. They grew somewhat slowly, so the meat was a bit expensive.

(The owner must have given me a fancier lunch than usual, then...)

"Do you like mokori, Sophia?"

"...it's fine."

"Then, uh, what's this salad-like dish?"

"...it's fine."

"Um, I see...?"

"...it's fine."

(Ahhh...I think she broke.)

"Do you want to sit down?"

"...it's fine."

(Oh, I think I understand. She must have a lot of pride, so just this is enough that she kills her emotions to protect her self-respect, like some girls working in

Kabuki-cho

would.)

"...um, well then..."

"...it's fine."

"I see, yes. It's fine, isn't it? That's good."

"...it's fine."

(Unfortunately, she's not fine.)

...

(Well, all I can do is try to enjoy my meal like this. Let's just think of this as some roleplay where I'm the new head of a household and she's a fresh slave.)

I finished my meal like that, with Sophia keeping me company.

back to index

Beginner Alchemist pt.2 B

After I finished my lunch, I returned to the town's main street.

(Half a day, and already I've about finished talking to my acquaintances in this world. Thinking back, things would have been about the same in Japan. That's pretty sad. I should try to think about my human relations a little more in the future.)

("Friends are sort of important, after all." I'll just try to keep that thought in the back of my mind from now on. But right now, I need to get ready for departure tomorrow.)

(Where do red dragons live, anyway? Wait, that seems important. Why didn't I think to find that out until now?)

(I can just imagine everyone getting together, and then asking me, "Where do you think we should go?" I'm the one who wanted to hunt a red dragon, after all. What should I do now?)

(I'm about 90% sure that magic noble knows where they live. He said I could leave the preparations for the trip to him, so he must know how far we need to go. But I should still try to check for myself. Checking details is always important for project management.)

I headed back towards the academy.

◇◆◇

(Really, isn't there something I can do about it taking over an hour to get to the academy? There are those carriages pulled by pseudo-horses, but I spent all my money buying my house. Besides, there's no parking at the academy, so the people rich enough to have a carriage must all be able to hire a driver too.

I wonder if there's a taxi service.)

(I'll definitely make a bicycle at some point.)

(But wait, Japan had bicycles for less than 100 years. The mechanism seems simple, but maybe if I try to actually make a bicycle, something I didn't think about will be surprisingly hard. Hmm, maybe the rubber for tires? Is it the chain that's hard to make? I remember seeing pictures of those funny bicycles with the pedals connected directly to a huge wheel.)

.....

(It's also possible that there's some solution using magic that I don't know about. If there are magic spells and monsters, then anything's possible.)

As I arrived at the academy, my ambitions of building bicycles and other inventions were starting to become less fun to think about.

(I can work on that later. For now, I have other things to do. Where was that magic noble's room?)

A while after after entering the academy, I'd become completely lost.

(I miss having a beautiful professional guide.)

I tried to go to the

reception desk that I'd found before, but I couldn't find that area.

Wandering around, I remembered the first time I went to Shinjuku station.

(I'm getting tired of walking around. Isn't there something like a

Starbucks or Doutor

around here? I wish I could get a cup of coffee here.)

As I was

thinking that, I found a cafe-looking place. It looked a lot like a store in a university or train station.

(Like I thought, even in a fantasy world, there are cafes in a building this big.)

About 90% of the

seats were full, and the customers all looked like nobles.

As I

entered, I watched the latest customer to see the store's system. They went to the front counter, and were given a glass cup full of tea on a tray. The tray had a handle above it, and they carried the tray over to a table.

(A cup of plain tea seems rather boring, but this is a store for nobles, so maybe it's surprisingly fancy.)

"Excuse me, I'll have a tea."

As I ordered, I saw an area in the back, connected to the rest of the

cafe through a narrow corridor. It had 2 benches that could probably each seat 4. The store was busy, but nobody was sitting back there.

(Lucky me. Some people must have just left.)

I got my tea and headed towards that back area. I'd walked for so long that my feet were sore, so sitting down was a relief.

(I'll just take a short break here. Maybe for 30 minutes or so.)

I sat down and tried my tea.

(Oh, this is good. I'll have to ask what this is called when I leave. It's definitely a flavor I'd like to have at home.)

As I was feeling relaxed and having my tea, I noticed the other customers glancing towards me.

(I guess that's to be expected. There aren't many asians around here. Or rather, I don't think I've seen another asian person yet. Someone even called me a lizardman earlier, in that class. I shouldn't worry about it too much. They can watch if they want.)

I leaned back and crossed my legs before taking another sip of my tea. The next time someone looked my way, I looked back and raised my cup a bit.

"This has a lovely fragrance, doesn't it? They use some good stuff here."

As I was saying that, a new group of customers came in, all of them beautiful girls.

The staff seemed to panic a little bit, and two people rushed over to welcome them.

(It looks like they'll have to sit over here. Nobody likes sharing a bench seat with a stranger, but the cafe is busy, so it can't be helped. Yes, come over here. The pretty girls can sit with me.)

I had even asked when I got my tea if it was OK to share a bench with someone, and I was told that it was fine.

"Ah, hello."

Holding my glass in one hand, I gestured at the empty seats with my other hand.

"Hey, you, what do you think you're doing?"

A girl who seemed like the leader of the group shouted at me angrily. She looked about 15 years old, with blonde hair to her shoulders in a bob cut, clear blue eyes, average height, an average chest, and an exceptionally pretty face.

(If she'd smile instead of glaring at me, she's be very charming...)

"Eh?"

"I'll ask you once more: why are you sitting there?!"

"Because I'm a customer here...?"

The other girls with her were all glaring at me, too.

"Did you actually just sit down there not knowing anything?!"

"No, um, what is it?"

Then, I heard a voice from the behind those

girls.

"What is it? Hurry up and sit down."

"Eh? But,

FitzClarence-sama, the seats for our tea party are..."

The girls

shuffled around a bit, and then a very short girl squeezed through between them.

"Ah..."

We were both surprised when we saw each other.

"Hey, you! It's you again!"

It was Ester, the blonde loli that

I'd run into by chance that morning. The girl with the blonde bob cut was

very surprised.

"Are you an acquaintance of FitzClarence-sama, by any chance?"

The sudden change in her treatment of me was impressive. It looked like everyone else in the group was clearly suboordinate to Ester.

The other girls carefully looked at Ester's face to try to figure out what our relation was, but she ignored them and angrily walked over to me.

"I heard from Lord Faren! Why me, for a dragon, a dragon hunt?"

"...Lord Faren?"

"You said it before, didn't you? Are you playing dumb now that there are other people around?!"

(What? Faren, Faren, hmm.)

"Oh, you mean the magic noble."

"You're crazy! Hunting a dragon, were you actually serious about that?"

Her followers were all staring, dumbfounded.

"...FitzClarence-sama?"

"Why me?! There are other people, aren't there? Why would you choose me for that? I mean, it couldn't be just because of that quest from before. That would be cruel!"

"Eh? No, there's no particular reason. I just couldn't think of anyone else, I guess."

"What?! You couldn't...think of anyone..."

She looked equal parts terrified and amazed, but she managed to quickly pull herself together.

"Oh ho ho ho, very well. Since you insist, I'll give you a chance to witness my power!"

She was full of energy as she made her proclamation.

(Why the sudden change? I don't understand this girl. But the enthusiasm is

good.)

"Well, OK then."

(It would probably be awkward for me to stay here, so I guess I'll leave.)

As I stood up, I remembered something I wanted to ask her about.

"Oh right, can your boyfriend come too?"

At that, she started making a weird noise.

"Gah, aaaah! Augh! Ah! Ach! AAaaa!"

"Eh? Why?
What is it?!"

"Hey you, come here for a minute."

She grabbed my arm, and pulled me along. As her followers and the other customers
watched in amazement, she kept going until we were outside of the cafe,
bringing me behind a pillar in a corridor.

"Don't talk about Allen!
Especially not here in the academy!"

"Allen? You mean your
good-looking boyfriend?"

"I just said, don't talk about him!"

"Ah, is that a secret?"

"Yes it's a secret! If my relationship with

him was exposed, Allen would be..."

(Going by her expression, this is pretty serious. Maybe he'd even be executed? If I remember right, her family is very important here.)

"...so your parents don't know about him, then?"

"That's right, do you have a problem with that?"

"No, well, if that's the case you should tell me beforehand."

"You're the one who ran off before I finished talking to you!"

"...that's true.

Anyway, isn't he a student here?"

"He's a knight with the knight

corps."

"Oh, I see."

(A noble's daughter and a knight meeting in secret would be romantic, it would be, but...)

"In that case, what about girl number 2?"

"Number 2? What are you talking about?"

"Ah, sorry. She's called Sophie, right?"

"Oh, her. She's with the

magic knight corps. At her age, she's already the vice-commander of the second division. That's how outstanding a magician she is. She's helped me out in the past, too."

"I see..."

("Magic knight corps."

Interesting. But if she's with them, then I probably won't see her any time soon.)

"Also, Sophie is only an alias of hers."

"Oh, I see."

(Why would she use an alias? I don't get it. Were they just pretending to be adventurers as an excuse to be alone with Allen?)

"If only there hadn't been a high orc, I could have kept being an adventurer with him, but now my father won't allow it anymore. That quest was a disaster..."

"Ho ho ho, but next is a dragon hunt! A red dragon, even! If that succeeds, even my stubborn father will have to recognize me!"

(It's weird that she's getting excited from talking to herself, but if she has enthusiasm, then that's excellent.)

"Ah, there was one thing I wanted to ask."

"What now?"

"Do you know where that magic noble's study here is?"

"Lord Faren's study? It's on the west side of the top floor, near the middle."

"I see, thanks."

I started heading that way.

"Hey, where are you going?"

"I need to talk to him, so excuse me."

She yelled at me as I left, but I just ignored her.

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At last, I reached the magic noble's study.

"What is it? Has there been some development?"

"No, there was just
something I wanted to ask..."

(It's embarrassing for me not to know where red dragons live in this situation, but I should swallow my pride here and ask anyway.)

"Do you know where to find a red dragon?"

"Let's see..."

He started rubbing a tip of his mustache between his
fingers.

"The closest place from here would probably be Mt. Pepe."

"About how far is that?"

"By air, probably 2 or 3 days of
travel."

(By air? What? How fast is that?)

"In that case, we should make it in time for the princess."

"Ah, I already made
arrangements for our transportation."

"I see. YOu've really done even more than I'd hoped for."

"Hah, something like that is no trouble."

His mouth made a very subtle smile.

(He's happy about that? It's actually kind of cute, but I'm not getting any enjoyment out of it at all.)

"It sounds like there's no problem with the transportation, then."

"Of course. Leave it to me."

"Yes, thank you very much."

He made the same faint smile again.

"That was all I needed to ask.
Well then, excuse me..."

"What, wouldn't you like to take a look at my research?"

"Ah, yes, but I'll look forward to that after finishing the dragon hunt and the princess's treatment. I have to do some preparations for making it."

"Hmm, that's true. I understand, I'll definitely

remember to show you my research once we return."

(No! Don't remember that!)

"Then, excuse me."

"Yes. I'm looking forwards to

tomorrow morning."

(Mission Complete. I checked what I needed to, and I didn't get stuck in another once of his endless lectures on magic.)

I left in a little bit of a hurry.

◇◆◇

By the time I was almost to my home, the sun was beginning to set.

I got dinner at a restaurant I hadn't tried before in that neighborhood. The food wasn't particularly good or bad. Less than an hour later, I returned home.

(I'll be busy tomorrow morning, so I should go ahead and sleep.)

I

lied down in bed, but I couldn't sleep. Thinking about leaving the next morning on a quest to hunt a dragon, I couldn't help being nervous.

I started wondering if I was forgetting something.

(I remember that time when a big new project started at work. If it failed, the division chief knew they'd lose face and have to apologize to the customer, so sudddenly our holidays and free time were gone. Paths to promotion appeared and disappeared. People worked until after the last train, because they didn't want to get fired. Japanese companies don't fire people often, but if you're fired no company will hire you after that. Your lifetime of constant hard work, from elementary school to high school to college, all to get that job, would be wasted. So you work.)

(Thinking about it logically, a red dragon is more dangerous than a high orc, isn't it? In every story I know, a dragon is stronger than a orc. And it's a "red" dragon, a special type that probably has a flame attribute. In a game that might be a boss with rare drops.)

(The monsters and spells here do seem to follow the logic of games, but why? Is this world actually based on a game? Or maybe games were based on stories that were based on this world? Or maybe it's the translation: I know the language here, but the names might be translated into the closest thing that I know about.)

.....

Thinking about the next morning, I got a stomach cramp from the stress.

(That dragon could probably kill me easily. I don't want to die a virgin!)

(Augh, I'm not going to be able to sleep like this.)

(Didn't I get
ask for healing magic so I could cure STDs? Here I am in a fantasy world with magic skills, and what am I doing?)

I got up out of bed.

(I should still have enough money left. As a man who's about to leave for a battle, yes, there's something I need to do.)

◇◆◇

(That's it, I'm going to find a brothel. Fantasy version.)

I headed
towards what I understood was the town's red-light district.

The
streets were full of the the town's night workers. I saw a young girl with cat ears, and a slightly older woman with a tail. And of course, there were regular humans, too. What they all had in common was that they weren't
wearing much. There were lots of boobs to look at.

(Ah, that's
dangerous...)

(If I just have some money, I can have sex with these girls? Really? With the in,

and the out, and the in again? And I don't think this world has condoms, so...)

I started getting excited.

(Wait, that blonde lolita was doing it with her handsome boyfriend, so in

that case, she might actually be pregnant...?)

.....

I was no longer excited.

(Augh, just forget that. Forget about that loli bitch, think about something else! This is my time!)

I went back to looking at the prostitutes along the road. Especially the ones with nice

boobs.

(OK, I've decided. That blonde beauty over there, yes, her.)

"Ah, hello..."

◇◆◇

After to I talked to her, she led me to a small and dirty bar. It was a stone building with wooden tables.

The area of the bar was only about 30 square meters.

"Just sit down here for a little bit."

A different girl, who was rather

plain-looking, poured some beer for me, and I took a sip.

(It's not really very good. Tastes like cheap stuff.)

I finished the first

glass of beer, and she poured another.

(That girl isn't coming back, is she? Shit, how did this happen? I don't want you pouring beer for me, I wanted to do it with the girl who brought me here!)

I didn't have the nerve to actually say what I was thinking to that girl.

In my

sadness, I drank the cheap beer. After about half an hour, a man with a

scary face came over to tell me the bill, and a sneaking suspicion of mine was confirmed.

"That'll be 3 gold coins."

"...seriously?"

(Yes, this whole bar is a scam, then. Maybe I should have tried to leave earlier, but I suppose it probably wouldn't have mattered.)

(I

suspected that, but I still drank anyway. The girl next to me was ugly, and the only solution was alcohol. Shit, their plan was perfect! But there's no way I'd be carrying 3 gold with me. I think one gold is about $10,000.

That's just too much.)

"Oh, are you saying you won't pay for your drinks?"

(No, I'm not paying 3 gold for that. What do I do now?)

As I was thinking about what I'd do, I heard an angry voice from another table.

"Eh? 3 gold for this?! Enough with the jokes!"

(Apparently there's someone else besides me who got suckered into coming here.)

I looked over.

"Ah..."

It was the knight who'd tried to arrest me again that morning. She was very drunk, too.

The lighting was dim, so she hadn't noticed me yet.

"Youuuu shcamming basterds!"

"No no no, we're a legitimate business here."

(Why is she here?! Hmm, if I recognized her, I must not be too drunk. Yes, I'm fine.)

"Geh, you..."

(Oh, I shouldn't have said something...)

She turned to look at me.

She scowled at me. "Why, why are you here?!"

"That's my line! I mean, aren't you a woman?"

"tch...that's..."

The large man next to her table, who had probably given her the bill, turned to me and gave me an evil-looking smile.

"This woman, she's a lez, you know. Wanted another woman to make her feel good."

"Really!"

(Wow, and she was desperate enough to come to a place like this?)

"No, shut up! Isn't it fine?! For me to want a woman?!"

(She barely tried to deny it. That's a really fast "coming out".)

When Mercedes said that, the lady sitting hext to her gave a weird smile and started wiggling her way into Mercedes's lap.

"You have to pay for your drinks, miss knight. If you don't, we might have to report what you were doing tonight to your boss. The 3rd division, right? I do like loose-lipped women like you, ya know."

"Why do you...?"

"You bragged about it to that lady next to you, didn't you, Mercedes-chan? I think the neighbors might have been able to hear you."

"Even my name?!"

(Wow, she has a big mouth. You should have used a fake name, obviously. Wait,

maybe that's why she was in prison under a
different name...?)

"But, but still, three gold is just too much..."

"Huh? Well, if you can't pay, then I guess you'll just have to work off
your debt."

He was leering at her with a lecherous smile.

Meanwhile, 8 rough-looking men had come in, all of them with swords. They
all laughed at his line.

(It doesn't look like they'll let us just leave.)

Her hand reached towards her sword.

"Oh, are you drawing? We'd have to do something about that."

The men in the bar reached towards their own swords at their hips.

Meanwhile, the homely girl next to me had fled somewhere further inside the building at some
point.

(This is like a scene in a saloon in a Western movie, just before a battle. Well, neither of us have the money to pay, so I'm going to have to get out of here by force.)

(Mercedes-chan is good at
fighting, but she currently has the status effect "dead drunk". Right now, she'd only be a burden. Getting out of here is up to me.)

(First, I should check how strong the opponents are.)

name: Johnny
gender: male
race: human
level: 19
job: restaurant management
HP：292/309
MP：0/0
STR：70
VIT：120
DEX：161
AGI：57
INT：40
LUC：48

name: Bob
gender: male
race: human
level: 21
job: restaurant staff
HP：102/229
MP：0/0
STR：100
VIT：110
DEX：131
AGI：97
INT：10
LUC：78

name: Michaelangelo
gender: male
race: human

level: 22
job: restaurant staff
HP：10/269
MP：0/0
STR：100
VIT：90
DEX：131
AGI：77
INT：20
LUC：18

(There's one guy in there who looks like he's close to death. Looking at Michaelangelo there, his face is pretty pale. He doesn't seem injured, so it's probably some disease.)

I checked my own status again.

name: Tanaka
gender: male
race: human
level: 35
job: alchemist
HP：3909/4609
MP：99500000/99500000
STR：375
VIT：560
DEX：852
AGI：442
INT：7922000
LUC：29

(My "LUC" is still low. I wonder if that's related to ending up here. In any case,

escape should be easy

enough. I'm super strong.)

After checking their status, my attitude became a lot more grandiose.

"Sorry, but I can't let you have that woman."

I got up and walked over to Mercedes, not worrying about the men around her.

Even in that situation, Mercedes was still hugging the woman next to her with her left arm. Up close, I could see that Mercedes was actually fondling the other woman's boobs. Going by her face, she looked like she hated it; it reminded me of the way Sophia had looked at me in the restaurant.

"What are you doing?!"

"Shut up for a minute, Mercedes."

I pointed at the man who seemed like the leader.

"It's time to begin the Tanaka festival."

"Eh?"

I made a

fireball in front of my pointing finger. At the same time, I made another ten-some fireballs around the room. They gave off spurts of flame as they grew to the size of volleyballs.

"A magician?!"

The men's faces hardened.

"If you want to die, go ahead. First come, first served."

The men started getting increasingly angry.

"Hah, we're not some street hoodlums that would be scared of a few fireballs."
"One magician in this small area don't do much."
"Everyone go for him together!"

They yelled and attacked.

(Brave, very brave. But bravery alone won't win against my fireballs.)

"Gyaaaaah!"
"Bgaaugh!"
"Shiiiigh!"
"Aaaaaa!"

Their screams filled the air.

On impact, the fireballs all exploded into spurts of flame, and in that small space they reached me too. Trying to look cool in front of Mercedes-chan, I'd overdone things.

"Hey, what are you doing using fire in a small place like this?! Ah, my hair, my hair is burning!"

"Ah, my clothes are on fire! Shit!"

Both of us ran for the exit in a panic and slightly on fire.

◇◆◇

A little while after escaping from the scam bar, Mercedes and I were sitting on some stairs in an alley in the red-light district.

"...I'm definitely not going to

thank you for that."

She looked very unhappy.

"Same as usual, I see."

"I don't care what a criminal like you thinks."

"Like I said, that was a false charge...or rather, what were you doing there? Even if you like girls, buying a woman at a bar is pretty desperate."

"That's your fault, isn't it?!"

"Why is it my fault."

"A

dragon, a dragon you know! There's no way you'll win! When someone's facing their death, of course they'll want to play around a little bit, and touch or rub or kiss or lick..."

"Ah..."

"I'm surrounded by cute girls all day, and I can't do anything! If I even tried to talk to them, I, you know what would happen! I have needs!"

"....."

(She was thinking basically the same thing as me.)

"And so, you got led to a scam bar."

"You were the same!"

"That's because the girl who led me there, she was just too cute..."

"...ah, that's true, she was really pretty."

"Her boobs were amazing, weren't they?"

"Mmm, yes, I couldn't get enough of that view."

"Her ass was great too."

"And that low cut of her dress in the back was hot."

"Just
remembering it makes me feel frustrated."

We passed some time
together talking about her, and how we imagined she'd be in bed.

back to index

Part 1

I will be posting chapter 11 in parts instead of the entire chapter since each chapter is roughly 50+ pages long.

Dragon Extermination 1 (1/3)

<u>Part 1</u>

The next day, I brought Mercedes-chan over to the noble mage's house.

Due to the realization of Tanaka festival, I moved out without even catching a wink of sleep. What is up with this festival mood. Think of your own age man. Don't go creating a new black history after thirsty years.

I was actually driven by the impulse to just return home and go straight to sleep. However this is for the sake of my own house. I had no choice but to put on a calm front and work like a gentleman. Nature and expression is a harsh thing.

"What's wrong? You have dark circles under your eyes." [Fahren]

"No, I was just going through the measures on how to defeat the dragon with her." [Tanaka]

I cast a glance at the lady knight-chan standing next to me.

There are slight dark circles under her eyes too.

Is the noble mage that frightening to her? Unlike me, she was frozen at the sight of him. She stood at attention as a means of saluting him. Since she's young, staying up one or two nights must not be much of a problem to her. What an envious young and lively body.

"Yes–! I tried helping Tanaka-sama to the best of my ability!" [Mercedes]

The manner of speaking is indeed a big deal. It sounds unbelievable when I was referred to as Tanaka-sama.

Is this the result of the knight's education?

No in her case, she might just be weak in the face of power.

“Fumu, I see.” [Fahren]

The noble mage placed his hand under his chin as if he were pondering on something. He diverted his sight between Mercedes-chan and me alternatively.

I guess that excuse must have been hard for him to accept. It will be unbearable if he were to make the wrong conjecture so I tried voicing out first to change the subject to a more appropriate direction.

“But this airship is seriously amazing.” [Tanaka]

The current location is at the noble mage’s garden. I muttered out loud as I looked at the huge vehicle in front of me.

“So you understand the splendour of it too?” [Fahren]

In that instant, the noble mage’s eyes could be seen sparkling.

“This airship is actually the state-of-the-art that I have designed myself. Not anyone else’s.” [Fahren]

“Eh? Is that so?” [Tanaka]

You’re even designing for machineries? Seriously, how versatile are you in actual, noble mage-san.

“This was actually donated to the country but I temporarily borrowed it for the sake of the operation this time. It’s currently the fastest airship in this country. It will only take approximately two to three days from the capital city of Chalice in Penny Empire to the adjacent Republic of Pussy.” [Fahren]

“Oo…” [Tanaka]

I don’t really understand it but let’s just pretend to be surprise for the time being.

I had initially expected to endure the pain in my butt by travelling in the shaking horse drawn carriage again so this is unexpected of the noble mage. I didn’t foresee an airship to be our means of transportation. Could the science in this world be progressing more than what I had thought?

“By making the ship smaller in proportionate to the size of the magic stone, we are able to increase the travelling distance and speed.” [Fahren]

“I see.” [Tanaka]

It’s regrettable. It has nothing to do with science at all.

Judging from the current flow of conversation, I guess the magic stone is something that has similar function to an engine in this world.

The airship actually looked humongous by the first glimpse. The size should be roughly thirty meters in length and eight meters in height. If this is what he meant by small then I can assume the large ones must be really titanic in size. I wonder if this thing can really fly.

No, well it should fly since this is a fantasy world after all.

“Where’s the luggage?” [Tanaka]

“They were already loaded into the airship.” [Fahren]

“Then the next should be…..” [Tanaka]

“It’s just to wait for all the ones whom you have invited to gather now.” [Fahren]

I see.

I looked around after saying so.

The ones gathered in the garden now were only the noble mage who was accompanied by a dozen of his maids, Mercedes-chan and me. All we need to do now is to wait for the group sex team and Sophia-chan to gather before we depart.

It might have been hasty of me to go straight to the red-light district after accomplishing it previously.

Well then, I should think of something to occupy myself while waiting.

I wonder if there is a suitable topic to converse with an ossan.

Just as I started thinking about it, a carriage could be seen making an unexpected stop on the road on opposite side of the garden.

"……That must be Fitz Clarence's carriage." [Fahren]

It must be quite a respectable house for this ossan to even remember the name.

"Do you know her?" [Tanaka]

"We did have some exchange before. Was it two or three years ago? My niece was married into that fellow's family. Most women born in that household have high magical power but for some reason men weren't able to reside there. Although the people in that family were denying it, it is likely that the people in the olden days do not interact among themselves." [Fahren]

"I see." [Tanaka]

I don't understand it at all.

Well it's something that has nothing to do with me anyway.

The carriage entered the garden after the gate was opened and finally reached us after a short while. The group of maid became nervous this time as they weren't sure of what was coming. The noble mage calmly received the carriage while Mercedes-chan was in the verge of tears, casting me a look as if telling me, "No more…..Please give me a break."

A familiar looking blonde haired loli got out of the carriage.

"Hee~, an airship. You've prepared quite a stylish transportation there." [Ester]

She muttered as she stood next to the airship after getting down the steps.

Despite being a noble, she didn't even bother greeting someone beforehand. It seemed trivial to her since the first thing she did as soon as she met someone was to make a frivolous comment.

However the noble mage didn't seem to be upset with the other party. On watching her brazenly striking up the conversation with him, I could tell that she is the complete opposite to Mercedes-chan.

"I'm surprised that fellow, Richard even permitted it." [Fahren]

"It's a serious matter concerning Her Royal Highness Princess, don't you

know? Isn't that the responsibility of a noble?" [Ester]

"Fuun~, well whatever. If you have any luggage, hand them to the maid there. We'll load them into the airship." [Fahren]

"Got it." [Ester]

The blonde haired loli then began instructing the attendant standing beside, causing the noble mage's household maids to move around hastily to meet her expectations.

"Ah could you spare me a moment?" [Tanaka]

"What?" [Ester]

"Are you not together with your boyfriend? That ikemen guy." [Tanaka]

"H-hold it–!! I've told you not to say a word about him before, haven't I !!" [Ester]

"So he's not able to make it today?" [Tanaka]

Compared to the blonde haired loli here, that guy far is more important in this operation. Since the noble mage will be the rear guard, we need someone to be a vanguard in this team. Mercedes-chan is somewhat of a vanguard but as I thought we still need a male on the frontline in case of emergencies.

"A-Allen has knight duty to attend to so he is currently out of town! Due to the influence of the High Orc's incident, the knight corps and the magic knight corps have merged so they are handling their activities together to maintain the security." [Ester]

"Eh? Really?" [Tanaka]

Are you serious? I wanted to utter that out loud but I do understand it too.

The blonde haired loli who is the daughter of a big shot was exposed to danger in the recent incident. That must have greatly influenced the result. When you think of it this way, this incident might not be particularly bad for the whole country.

"He departed three days ago so I guess he should be in Kiwau town by now. There have been rumours of orc sightings spreading across the neighbourhood

so it didn't seem likely that he will be returning in one month." [Ester]

"……I see." [Tanaka]

Even though it might be a merit to the whole country, it was a demerit to me. We're down to one vanguard now.

"What's wrong? Something troubling you?" [Fahren]

"Ah not really. It's just that we're short of one member than our initial plan now." [Tanaka]

"Fumu…." [Fahren]

"Well, it couldn't be helped for those who can't make it…" [Tanaka]

It'll be useless even if I kept persisting in it. I should figure out another method in hand that I can use instead. Although I don't think I will be able to make it even if I were to send out job offers to the Adventurer's Guild now.

I should start recalling the guidance given by that little girl. What was needed in order to defeat a dragon?

『Having friends that you can trust, I think?』

I can trust that ikemen.

He's a good guy.

Even though he's a harem bastard who had group sex with number 2-chan despite having a girlfriend from a noble family, he is still an honest person by nature at the very least. He interacted with me like a gentleman even though I am ugly.

It didn't seem possible to find another talented member as replacement in case of emergencies.

"Then it should be fine if we were to pick him up from Kiwau on our way isn't it?" [Fahren]

"Eh? Can we go there?" [Tanaka]

"It's just in the vicinity of the capital. It wouldn't take that much time." [Fahren]

“It’ll be of great help if you can do so.” [Tanaka]

I guess it’s something similar to the light bullet train in Japan. If we were to depart from Tokyo, we will still be making stops at Shinagawa and Shin-Yokohama.

What an accommodating noble mage.

It was good to be able to get to know him. I am indebted to him considerably.

“Then the waitress girl will be the last one. Once she arrives, all the members will be fully assembled.” [Tanaka]

“I see. So essentially, you and I are the two-top ones then? Certainly a useless troop will only be a hindrance. You sure know your stuff don’t you! The number of people is not important when it comes to exterminating a dragon. What’s most important is the quality! Quality!!” [Fahren]

“Eh? Aa no actually…” [Tanaka]

“Fuhahahahahahaha, it’s been a long time since I last felt the torrent of my magic power seething like this.” [Fahren]

“……” [Tanaka]

Whatever. I will go along with the conversation accordingly then.

After making the exchanges with the noble mage appropriately and the arrival of the blonde haired loli, a presence could be felt coming from somewhere at the front of the house. Once I directed my senses there, I was able to narrow down the location. There is an individual standing nearby the gate, glancing around as she examined the premises.

That person was looking so nervous that I was starting to feel sorry for her.

She was waiting for an opportunity since she wasn’t sure if she should be entering. At the same time she was hesitating since it might be bad if she were to enter.

There weren’t any other residences in the entire neighbourhood that look as sophisticated as the noble’s personal residence.

“The last person finally came.” [Fahren]

“Mu?”

Everyone directed their sights to the surrounding of the gate on hearing what the noble mage said.

Sophia-chan could be seen flustering there as she carried a huge furoshiki on her back.

Tears were welling up in her eyes and she looked as if she might escape anytime soon.

“Isn’t that the daughter of the bar owner from the other day?” [Fahren]

“I thought we might need someone to serve us meal too.” [Tanaka]

“I see. So she’s your caretaker. If you have notified me beforehand, I don’t have any problem arranging one or two maid for you. But well, if that is the case then I don’t mind it. Just get her on board. Oi-!” [Fahren]

When the noble mage called out to the maid in waiting standing next to him, she rushed over to receive Sophia-chan in a hurry.

“So is everyone here?” [Fahren]

“Yes, that’s right.” [Tanaka]

“Then let us depart.” [Fahren]

Overall, this is not a bad party in particular. Nevertheless, if you were to ask for my personal opinion, this is actually not a team that I can be proud of. Since this is the best I have currently, I will just make do with it.

When there is a will, there is a way.

As such, the Red Dragon Subjugation Party finally set off from that place.

◇◆◇

This airship is amazing.

At the noble mage’s instruction, the airship rose several hundred meters above the ground and into the sky in a blink of an eye before gliding through the clouds in a dignified manner. When I gazed out from the deck, I was able to

enjoy the spectacle of the vast town below from one end to the other end.

Up ahead, the grassland, forest and mountain range gave off a fantasy-like feeling.

This is seriously a fantasy.

“How much longer till we reach Kiwau?” [Tanaka]

“We’ll be reaching there really soon. The time taken will be the same as a short light meal.” [Fahren]

“By the way, how long will it take if we were to take a carriage?” [Tanaka]

“It’ll take about two days I guess.” [Fahren]

“This airship is certainly fast.” [Tanaka]

“It was originally an information transmission vessel used in war. It was designed specially as a transportation for the important people. There are no other airships in existence that will fly faster than this one in this world. The core used in the magic stone produced is also of higher quality than the Blue Dragon.” [Fahren]

“I see.” [Tanaka]

The dragon subject popped up again.

I wonder if they are frequently hunted.

I don’t really know.

“By the way, who’s the one piloting this airship?” [Tanaka]

“It’s me. Why do you ask?” [Fahren]

“Eh?” [Tanaka]

Come to think of it, there were no one else on board this airship apart from the members of our party.

I had thought that they will be boarding the airship with the luggage but apparently I was wrong.

“In other words, are we the only crew?” [Tanaka]

“Aa, that’s right.” [Fahren]

“I-I see.” [Tanaka]

I was slightly surprised.

“As long as we have someone who is comprised with power to a certain degree, we can control it with magic even when we are away from the bridge. We do not need to manually control it precisely with the steering wheel in a calm climate like this.” [Fahren]

“Certainly when we take the usefulness into consideration, this one-man ship is of great advantage.” [Tanaka]

“Umu. That’s right. You do understand it quite well, don’t you?” [Fahren]

“I-Is that so.” [Tanaka]

“Once we are done with this trip, it’ll be great if you can pay a visit once to my laboratory. I’ll show you the shipbuilding’s document. I have a plan to build a high speed ship with a higher pre-emptive strike output than this one.” [Fahren]

“Well, I’ll do so when I have the opportunity….” [Tanaka]

This ossan can be really long-winded when it comes to magic-related topics.

“By the way, what happened to the others?” [Fahren]

“Eh? Aa, that possibly young lady seemed to be experiencing a severe motion sickness and is currently throwing up somewhere in the airship. The Knight-san is looking after her. Also the waitress girl is preparing lunch in the kitchen now.” [Tanaka]

“Is that so.” [Fahren]

The good looking lesbo has a look of ecstasy on her face as she rubbed the back of the blonde haired loli whose face has turned blue as she puked. Their appearances were truly impressive. I have brought her over even though she wasn’t able to obtain what she wanted in that rip-off bar last night so currently, she might be in higher tension than usual in trying accomplish what she desires right after that incident.

“Anyway, can I ask you a question?” [Tanaka]

“What?” [Fahren]

I’ve always wanted to ask him this for a long time so this is a good time to do so.

“It’s about the time when we first met. Why were you in the bar downtown? There are many other bars that are much better than that one.” [Tanaka]

“Aa so that’s what you were wondering about.” [Fahren]

“Yes.” [Tanaka]

I wonder why someone with such superior magic went to a place like that.

“In that bar on that street, there was a woman that gives off a mermaid-like charm and has an allure that is incomparable to any other women. The power and magic she processed are difficult to be made light of too. If one were to fight against someone like that, was it impossible or could that person a male homo or could it be another noble mage? That rumour has reached my ear.”[1] [Fahren]

“Aa….” [Tanaka]

Has the downtown sarcasm reached the said person as well?

“If only there is a certain magic for it, I’d be willing to investigate it.” [Fahren]

“It’s just a person though.” [Tanaka]

“Seriously. It was really a waste of time.” [Fahren]

This ossan has a light footwork when it comes to something that is really related to magic.
(Rinkage: Someone who doesn’t hesitate to go somewhere, do anything or join some events, etc.)

“Nevertheless, as a result I was able to meet you. In that respect, it might not be a waste of time entirely. We never know what and how things will be connected to each other.” [Fahren]

“Ee, well true…..” [Tanaka]

The mystery was solved.

I felt a little better now.

“Well then, I will be taking a short rest in my own room. Let me know once we reached there.” [Tanaka]

“Umu. I got it.” [Fahren]

I parted with the noble mage and went inside the airship.

I headed towards Sophia-chan who was diligently preparing lunch.

Footnote

1. 市井の飲み屋に、マーメイドが放つチャームも斯くやあらん魅力を持った女がいる。その威力たるや如何なる魔法も侮る難し。これを持って抗う者があるとすれば、それは不能か男色か魔道貴族か、などという噂を耳にしてな

Part 2

Here's part 2. There are still 8800+ words left and I'll be done with chapter 11 x3

Dragon Extermination 1 (2/3)

Part 2

When I was first told about the airship kitchen, I was imagining it to be something similar to a one-room apartment. Nevertheless, why is this place so well-equipped with such excellent facilities? The structure and facilities installed are about the same as the dining kitchen of a luxurious apartment. This fully equipped kitchen is far better than mine at home.

"Yo." [Tanaka]

"Hii–!!" [Sophia]

Sophia-chan gave out a short shriek and her shoulders could be seen trembling.

The kitchen knife in her hand stopped right above the cutting board as she looked here.

"I-I sincerely apologize for this but I'm still in the midst of cooking…" [Sophia]

"Aa no, I'm not here to urge you in particular. I just came here to see how things are." [Tanaka]

"…eh, aa is that so?" [Sophia]

Her expression didn't seem to be fine throughout the entire time since we met earlier. It must be the noble mage's fault in all probability.

Owing to him, her antipathy towards me was the worst.

We're currently in the process of exterminating a dragon so it's my mission to improve this situation somehow.

“I’ve heard of most of the details already but, there’s something that I would like to confirm.” [Tanaka]

“Eh? W-What do you mean by that?” [Sophia]

“In regards to the reason the noble mage went to your shop.” [Tanaka]

“T-That…” [Sophia]

“He overheard the rumours about the beauty of your magic, so it appears that he went all the way to pay your shop a visit.” [Tanaka]

“No, well, even if you say that….” [Sophia]

I would be trouble by it. I felt as if I could read what she was trying to say just from her expression.

Well, that is to be expected.

There are hardly anything good about being liked by that mad noble.

“Was it Mermaid’s Charm? He must have wanted to see that magic.” [Tanaka]

“No, b-but I can’t use any magic! I’m telling the truth!” [Sophia]

“Yeah it looks as if he has understood it. He doesn’t seem to be especially interested in it now.” [Tanaka]

“I-Is that so….” [Sophia]

For some reason, there was a complicated expression on her face when I said that he wasn’t especially interested in it now. A woman’s heart can be so difficult. She appears like the type to be pampered as a child so I guess that was natural.

Based on the conversation that I have eavesdropped in the bar, there still seemed to be a fairly high percentage of young women who were still aiming for low ranking nobilities’ second or third son just so that they could be married into wealth or prestige.

Although majority of them never ended up achieving their wish, the overall result wasn’t zero. Hence it might still appear realistically possible to the bar’s poster girl.

Well, that is only if the other party is able to endure the noble mage.

“In other words, you don’t need to be that tense actually.” [Tanaka]

“…..Will it really be all right?” [Sophia]

“It was confirmed before boarding the airship earlier. It’s something that I normally do when I encounter a noble like that too so I don’t think there should be any objections later on.” [Tanaka]

“……..” [Sophia]

“So like I said, please prepare the meal with ease. Aa, another thing. It’s about the number of people. We might be getting another one or two more people on board later on so I would appreciate it if you can make slightly bigger portion.” [Tanaka]

“I-I understand…..” [Sophia]

Good, good. The follow-up should be sufficient with this.

I knew I can do it, if I wanted to.

Recently, I felt as if my communication power has increased a little.

With this, I had a feeling that it had become something like a plus-minus zero.

“Then I’ll be going to take a short break. Please excuse me.” [Tanaka]

“Ah y-yes.” [Sophia]

I went to the cabin quickly to avoid exposing my weakness.

◇◆◇

As I was lying down on the bed in my room, the airship began to descend steeply.

I was initially dozing off but I had woken up completely. We might have possibly reached Kiwau by now. I walked through the passage and went outside. On reaching the deck, I realized that everyone except Sophia-chan was already there.

The airship seemed to have landed in the centre of a wide open space. It must be really conspicuous as more and more people in the neighbourhood gathered around, aroused by their curiosity. However, once they noticed the country’s symbol on the airship’s outer wall, I doubt anyone will have the courage to come

close anymore. I guess they will probably be observing only from afar.

Ten meter plus away from here, someone who resembles a military police could be seen rushing over.

“It looks like we have arrived.” [Tanaka]

“Umu. You should hurry up and bring him over. I’ll be waiting in the airship.” [Fahren]

“Got it.” [Tanaka]

I nodded. As I looked around, I found the blonde haired loli with a pale blue-faced leaning over the deck’s railing.

I wouldn’t be able to talk him into joining if I don’t bring this person along.

“Let’s go.” [Tanaka]

“W-Wa–Wait for a moment. I’m still feeling slightly sic–……..” [Ester]

“You’ll gradually recover after walking for a bit.” [Tanaka]

“A–, gya–……” [Ester]

I grasped her arm and pulled her along by force, unintentionally causing her to throw up a little in the process.

Safe. My shirt wasn’t hit so no problem.

“I-I’ll be coming along too!” [Mercedes]

Mercedes-chan tagged along after that.

The blonde haired loli appeared to be her preference for some unexpected reason. By taking advantage of her current airsick state, she could do as she please on the pretence of goodwill. Her motive was as clear as crystal. Although, I actually don’t think that this blonde haired loli or noble mage were really that big shots.

“Sto-stop it–, I’m serious…. It’s not possible, it’s seriously not possible–……” [Ester]

“If you were to express yourself a little more, you would look cuter. There’ll be a demand for it….” [Tanaka]

“There’s no way that it’s true, isn’t it!? Ah, wa–….” [Ester]

Every single minute is precious now.

If she were a virgin, I might have shown her some consideration.
(Rinkage: The original text was “unpenetrated virgin” but I decided to leave it as “virgin”)
However, I do not go easy on someone whose hymen has been broken by another person’s stick (dick). I’ll pull her, haul her or do anything to get her off the airship by force.

We stepped down from the airship through the deck.

Thereupon, the military police earlier, who was armed with metallic armour and spear rushed over to us.

He was a young man who looked younger than me (probably in his mid-twenties). His shortly trimmed brown hair with clear blue eyes that further complemented his face makes him look handsome enough to be called an ikemen. Although not as good looking as Allen, I was confirmed that he is certainly popular too.

“Wh-What is going on!?” [brown haired ikemen?]

He asked as he looked at the airship, shaking in fear.

Just at the right time. Let’s try asking him.

“Excuse me but are you acquainted with Allen from the knight corps?” [Tanaka]

“Eh? Do you mean Captain Allen? If you are then he’s at an inn nearby here but, well, m-may I know where this airship is from? Are you under urgent business?” [brown haired ikemen?]

“This airship was borrowed by Lord Fahren there from the country. I’m sorry but could you guide me to that inn? We have an urgent matter with him.” [Tanaka]

I gazed at the deck, indirectly pointing it out to him. The ossan was standing at the deck, overlooking here.

“Ah yes! I understand!” [brown haired ikemen?]

On seeing the noble mage standing there, the military police became obedient immediately.

Such a convenient ossan.

The military police rendered a proper salute before guiding us directly to the inn where Allen is staying.

◇◆◇

I was guided around the inn's entrance and the area around the counter. It seemed to be built on a moderate scale and could accommodate approximately 100 guests. It once served as a restaurant before with the number of customers coming in reaching at least 90%, prompting them to seek for help even in the afternoon.

"He's staying on the second floor of the inn, in room 203." [brown haired ikemen?]

"I see. Thank you for guiding me." [Tanaka]

"N-No worries! I'll excuse myself then!" [brown haired ikemen?]

The military police quickly walked off.

After watching his back disappearing to the corner, we made our way to the said room 203.

We went over to the counter and explained it to the ossan who looked like the manager, and was given permission to pass through without even a word of complaint. This area didn't seem much different than a business hotel in Japan. I wonder if it was because this is an expensive place. I don't get it.

"Ester-san, can you please try walking on your own?" [Tanaka]

"Hii~, fuuu~, hee~…..I-I'll remember this…." [Ester]

I was still dragging the blonde haired loli along as I walked.

On the other hand, the lady knight was following us without uttering a single word. It seems that, she was feeling excited at the sight of Ester-chan who was still suffering from airsick. She was literally staring at her distress state with a look of ecstasy on her face. Did you see that? It was just as what I had said.

There'll be a demand for it if you were to express yourself a little more.

We finally reached the room not long after. There is a plate in the centre of the wooden door, bearing the number 203.

This is the place.

"Allen-sa…" [Tanaka]

I raised my arm, wanting to knock on the door but my hand stopped halfway. For some reason I could hear voices coming from the other side.

"Ahn, nn……Allen, amazing, it's amazing!"

"Aa, it feels good, it feels good too, Sophie……"

"Does Sophie's inside feel good to you too? Uu, I'm glad! More! Ahn! Ah! Ah! More, more, please make Sophie feel even better, ahnn! Give me more!"

"Aa, I'm cumming! I'll be cumming inside!"

"Let it all out! Ahn, ahn, ahn, please cum inside!!"

What on earth are they doing.
It's just a massage, isn't it? They are just massaging each other, aren't they?
There is also a possibility that they're just brushing their teeth, isn't it?
Well, it's possible since I can't see it from here.

"……."

"……."

"……."

A wave of silence swept over the blonde haired loli, the lesbo lady knight and me.

However, it only lasted for a short while. The silence was broken by Ester's holler almost instantly.

"A-Alleeeeennnnnn!!!!!!!" [Ester]

She kicked open the door with everything she had.

I wasn't sure if the hinge was just loose, or that the power of her kick was excellent but, either way the door was blown off into the room.

BANG

It came off completely and fell to the floor.

The sight that greeted us as soon as we jumped into the room was, the two of them sitting in seiza on the bed.

They seemed to be properly dressed so, let's see. What they were doing earlier?
Ah, this ojiisan don't know. Aa, I don't know, I don't know. Damn!

"E-Ester!?" [Allen]

"What's the meaning of this!? What were you guys going just now!?" [Ester]

As expected, even this ikemen wasn't able to make up an excuse in this situation. He looked extremely flustered.

Conversely, Ester-chan just stepped into the room in a haste, paying it no mind at all.

She has the look of a demon now. She seemed to be in a tsundere beyond tsundere state as she glowered at him with her partly-closed eyes.
(TL: ツンデレを越えたツンデレ状態)

"No, th-this is…..I mean…." [Allen]

"Didn't you promise that you won't do it when I'm not around!" [Ester]

"……" [Allen]

"I'm the first and Sophie's the second. So, so, wasn't that the only reason why I permitted it!?" [Ester]

The blonde haired loli was shouting with a flushed face.

It appears that number 1 classified this as a lover's rendezvous that has broken their regulations while number 2 was escaping reality by burying her face in Allen's chest.

Aa, I believed in it, Sophie-chan. You're playing such a role as the mistress here.

Someone from the pretentious cutie (ぶりっ子) group should be like that at the very least.
(ぶりっ子: A woman or girl who acts cute by playing innocent or helpless in front of the opposite sex.) “W-Wait a minute, Ester. Please calm down a little.” [Allen]

“It’s not about waiting or not waiting now! I-I-If it’s just once then I can still endure it but, h-h-h-how many times has it been now!? It feels aggravating to even count it!” [Ester]

So he’s a repeat offender.

As I thought, an ikemen’s level is high. He was cheating on such a cute blonde haired loli girlfriend.

If it were me, I have confidence that I would not look at another woman.

“P-Please wait a minute, Ester. I-I was the one who tempted Allen……” [Sophie]

“That’s even worse!” [Ester]

“!…..” [Sophie]

Quite so, indeed.
Anyway, will I invite these guys under the current circumstances?
No, it’s not about inviting or not inviting them.
I’ll invite them!

“All right, please wait for a moment everyone. It’s not the time for this now.” [Tanaka]

“I will not wait! This IS the time!” [Ester]

“Enough of that. Look, why don’t you just go to the corner of the room and revert back to being the vomiting girl earlier.” [Tanaka]

If I were to leave them be, they will keep going on forever. The noble mage and Sophia-chan are still waiting in the airship. It’s seriously a waste to squander time in this lover’s quarrel staged by the ikemen.

“W-What do you mean by vomiting girl!?” [Ester]

“Yes yes, please go back to being vomiting girl. Go, go throw up, go throw up.” [Tanaka]

I grabbed the blonde haired loli's head and shook her around in all directions.

"Wai–, st-stop–……." [Ester]

Soon enough, the blonde haired loli covered her mouth and ran to the corner of the room. She began vomiting.

In order to seize the opportunity, the lesbo lady knight started rubbing her back at the same time.
Nice combination.
Thanks to that, I could finally start my discussion with Allen.

"Wa-wait a minute, Tanaka-san!? What did you do to he-!?" [Allen]

"She was just suffering from motion sickness after being jolted in the airship. More importantly, I have something important to discuss with you. Will you lend me an ear?" [Tanaka]

"Eh? Well, that…." [Allen]

"Could you participate in the dragon extermination operation with us?" [Tanaka]

◇◆◇

I explained the circumstances to him without delay.

In the beginning, he didn't seem to believe in me when I told him about exterminating the red dragon. However, my intention was transmitted safely when he confirmed the huge airship bearing the country's symbol in the open space through the inn's window.

"That's all. It was an abrupt request so I would like to apologize for the trouble but, could you accompany us in this operation?" [Tanaka]

"A-Are you serious?" [Allen]

"I am serious. I'm brimming with motivation now. The red dragon can just come at me anytime." [Tanaka]

"But, how could a mere knight like me accompany someone as amazing as Fahren-sama….." [Allen]

The ikemen glanced outside through the window, becoming self-conscious as

he looked at the airship.

There must be various thoughts going through his mind. However, I would be troubled if he doesn't agree to my request here.

"You don't need to worry about that. That person is already well aware of it." [Tanaka]

"Eh? Is that true?" [Allen]

"So anyway, could I request for your assistance? Your precious girlfriend will be coming together too." [Tanaka]

"Aa, no, well that…." [Allen]

At the corner of the room, the blonde haired loli was glaring at Allen like a demon while the lesbo lady knight was rubbing her back. If she weren't experiencing motion sickness, she would've hit him with all her strength before mounting him and giving him another one or two more blows. That seems like good way for her to release her anger.

Somehow, a sense of schadenfreude came over me when I see his plight.

"I-I understand. If she will be going together then I have no reason to refuse." [Allen]

"Thank you very much for your assistance." [Tanaka]

All right! I got a vanguard!

"A-Ano, if Allen is going then I'll go too……" [Sophie]

"H-Hold it! Sophie!? You weren't invited for this!" [Ester]

The blonde haired loli shouted on hearing Sophie-chan's suggestion.

It would be seriously unbearable if I were to allow their sour relationship to progress any more than this.

However Sophie-chan is stubborn.

There was a desperate look on her face as she gripped the hem of her robe tightly with both hands.

"But, if it's magic then I-I can use it too…..the one who taught Ester magic was

also m-me. If that is the case then, I will be able to contribute to the teams' fighting force to a certain extent." [Sophie]

"……t-this thieving cat-!" [Ester]

"Please! Please bring me along!" [Sophie]

The two women's friendship is now broken just because of one ikemen.

Good job, me.
The 'meal' was delicious too.
It was even tastier than bread, pasta or flatbread.
Since it has come to this, I will accept anyone or anything that comes.
Why don't I just invite Sophie-chan to come along too.

"I got it. I'll be counting on the two of you to accompany us in this operation." [Tanaka]

"Wait a minute!" [Ester]

Even though the blonde haired loli seemed to be yelling at me over something, I don't give a damn about it.

I managed to acquire Allen and Sophie-chan as companions smoothly.

Part 3

Really sorry for the delay for this part. My modem was unstable during the entire weekend so I wasn't able to go online at all on Saturday and was able to get on for only for several minutes on Sunday. (just long enough to check my daily mails before it started acting up again)

Dragon Extermination 1 (3/3)

<u>Part 3</u>

After acquiring the group sex team, we returned to the airship.

Upon returning, someone who claimed to be a mayor seemed to be interacting and was giving a warm welcome to the noble mage at the deck but they ended their conversation as soon as we got up the steps.

After putting an end to all the flattery greetings, the airship took off to the sky once again.

Even though there was a look of regret on the mayor's face, the noble mage paid no mind to his state and raised the altitude of the airship. The other crew members could only remain silent the entire time when they were sent off. Although the party's hierarchical relationship was extremely intense currently, I have yet to think of dealing with it, even a little.

Well, I'll just keep it in mind and handle this issue in near future. Unfortunately, the degree of difficulty will be high.

After taking off to the sky, I am presently in the cabin, attending a live theatre on the love triangle trouble between one man and two women. In a private room that looks similar to a ferry's first class western room with two beds installed, sat the 'performers' on the sheets, making their exchanges.

Allen and Sophie were on one of the bed, side by side while the blonde haired loli and I were sitting on their opposite a little further from there. By the way, there was a tray of sandwiches that was made in the kitchen earlier, placed on

my lap.

“….E-Ester, will you listen to my side of story?” [Allen]

The question from Allen resounded through the room.

The blonde haired loli who was replying to him was in constant bad mood the entire time.

In addition to her airsickness, her boyfriend was also having an affair. That double punch seemed to be considerably hard for her.

“I don’t want to. There’s nothing more to talk about between the both of us.” [Ester]

“Would you please somehow listen to me? Please Ester!” [Allen]

“No! Definitely not! I will not believe in anything you say anymore!” [Ester]

“Ester……” [Allen]

While watching Allen and Ester’s trouble scene unfolding before me, I partook of the lip-smacking sandwiches prepared by Sophia-chan. The juicy sandwiches that were stuffed with chicken-like meat and basted with an abundance of butter gradually satiate my hunger that resulted from skipping breakfast this morning.

Aa, this meal is tasty.

I deliberately brought them here all the way from the dining room just for this. It was truly delicious, to be able to enjoy a meal made by a beautiful girl while watching another beautiful girl engaged in a jealous lover’s quarrel. This is one of the fieldwork that I would like to carry on hereafter.

“By the way, w-why are you here!?” [Ester]

I got rebuked by the blonde haired loli.

However, how could I leave a schadenfreude space like this?
(Rinkage: Original text is “meshiuma” which is a shortened version of 他人の不幸は蜜の味 [The misfortune of others’ taste like honey] or 他人の不幸でメシがうまい [Another person’s misfortune makes the food tasty]) “I have gone as far as to delay my meal time just to explain the circumstances to you all. Nevertheless

the situation this time is still a situation so I will not refute your exchanges. However, I think it would be better for you to get this over with as soon as possible." [Tanaka]

"….So-Sorry." [Allen]

I could feel his sense of guilt. His sense of guilt was overflowing.

I have a feeling that he was feeling extremely sorry about it.

But, it felt good. This situation felt good.

"We have a big job ahead of us so I would be really grateful if both of you can steer clear of any future trouble. While it might be slightly too forceful, you guys should draw a firm conclusion when you're in the presence of a third party." [Tanaka]

"C-Certainly, this was all due to my infidelity…." [Allen]

As long as I matched the story with an appropriate excuse, I would still have the upper hand.

"What do you mean by this was all due to my infidelity? I have asked you this before, haven't I? How many times has it been now?" [Ester]

"Th-That…." [Allen]

"If it was just once or twice then, I-I would still be able to permit it. It's a man's resourcefulness so it couldn't be helped. Women will naturally flock to charismatic man. I always believe that nothing can be done in that situation." [Ester]

"……." [Allen]

"Nevertheless, the number of times this has happened now is out of ordinary! Even if I were to count it using both hands and feet, it still wouldn't be enough! How much do you actually yearn for sex!? You pervert!" [Ester]

"….I-I'm sorry. I certainly can't refute that." [Allen]

"And the worst part of it was that you're doing it with Sophie behind my back! Am I actually the most important one to you!? I found that I couldn't believe in your words more and more now!" [Ester]

“That is….” [Allen]

The blonde haired loli got teary-eyed.

This ikemen. He was being lovey-dovey with Sophie-chan more than what I expected. I had always thought his number one to be that blonde haired loli but it appears that, there is a possibility that her position might drop to number two in future.

Aa, could the reason be related to this girl’s house?

On the other hand, this blonde haired loli was quite open-minded with her boyfriend. I would definitely be mad with jealousy if I were to see the woman I like being cozy with another guy. When you think of it this way, Ester-chan can be considerably big hearted. That aspect of her is something I can honestly respect.

But well, the situation in which the same case of adultery was repeated beyond two digits would bring even her to tears.

“I will, I will not believe in Allen anymore!” [Ester]

“Ester please. Could you listen to my side of story, even just a little?” [Allen]

“I will not! I will definitely not listen to you anymore!” [Ester]

I wonder why. For some reason, a mysterious sense of defeat could be felt swirling inside me.

Despite experiencing a sense of schadenfreude, I had a feeling that I was receiving damage at the same time.

Just because he was permitted to have a harem, this ikemen has found the composure to commit infidelity over and over again. My meal has turned bad now. The first-rate meal prepared by Sophia-chan is now ruined. The juicy sandwich tasted strangely bad in my mouth when I chewed it.

I wanted it to be tastier.

“I will not permit it this time! I’ve reached my limits! This will be a goodbye!” [Ester]
(Rinkage: Waiwai! Someone getting dumped (ノ^ ^)ノ) “P-Please wait! I love you! More than anyone else in this world!” [Allen]

“!……” [Ester]

The ikemen whispered words of love.

The effect is outstanding.

The blonde haired loli’s shoulder appeared to be trembling slightly from shock.

“Even if you tell me that, I-I will definitely not be fooled again!” [Ester]

“It’s the truth! Please believe me. It was just as Sophie has said!” [Allen]

The ikemen spoke with an air of composure when the conversation shifted to Sophie-chan, the person in question beside him. Although, even when she was dragged into the conversation for query all of a sudden, all she did was just exchange look with him in silence. But, near, you’re too near, Sophie-chan. The distance between you and Allen was so close that even your thighs were touching.

“You’re the only number one for me! I love you!” [Allen]

“D-Didn’t I just say so? R-Regardless of how many times you said it……” [Ester]

The ikemen’s love attack was so effective that it was dangerous.

There was a change in the blonde haired loli’s tone.

It was plain obvious that her feelings wavered.

Is this the power of an ikemen?

My feelings were swayed as well.

Even a straight guy would be swayed if an ikemen said something like this.

Damn it Allen. You looked quite cool there.

His eyes were glittering making him look like a true gentleman.

“That’s how my feelings are, Ester. Even if I have to cast away all that I have, the only person whom I want to be with is you!” [Allen]

“!……..” [Ester]

The ikemen’s decisive line has dealt the final blow.

The blonde haired loli’s eyes were wide opened.

However, she endured it, albeit at the last moment.

“H-Hmph! How many times have I heard of the same thing now? Why don’t you just use that line on Sophie as much as you want instead? I will not believe in anything you said anymore……Will not believe it, will not believe it. Th-That’s all!” [Ester]

“E-Ester!?” [Allen]

The blonde haired loli got up from the edge of the bed.

Her complexion didn’t look too good, probably due to her airsickness.

“Goodbye!” [Ester]

She casted a glance at Allen as she said so and left the room as it is.

The door was opened and closed with a small bang that resounded through the place.

Goodbye. Even if she said so, I don’t think they will break-up that easily. Not only are they currently in the same airship flying above the sky, they will also be spending the next few days together. The blonde haired loli seems oblivious to her surroundings now. Where is she planning to escape to?

“…..Ester.” [Allen]

The ikemen who was only able to watch as she left, murmured from the other side of the door.

Sophie-chan gently held his fist that was clenched up on his knee.

“….Allen.” [Sophie]

“So-Sophie, I…….” [Allen]

(Rinkage: The original text is “Boku wa Ester o…. which indicated that he wanted to say “I love/like Ester” but since the “love/like” word is not present there and the grammatical structure of English and Japanese is different, I left it as it is)

“Even if you do, I don’t mind it.” [Sophie]

“!…..” [Allen]

They stared at each other in silence, locking gaze.

I was expecting him to go after the blonde haired loli but, what’s up with that?

I'm currently detecting a strange love field around them. Sophie-chan was seriously a bold woman, more than what I had imagined. Taking Allen's male whore state into account, this kind of accident is likely to happen in ten or twenty cases.
(Rinkage: Male Whore = Original word is actually yarichin ヤリチン, a vile slang for man who has sex with many women) Thanks to that, the present time carried on once again, giving my mental an enormous blow.

This is no longer possible.

My heart couldn't take it.

It wasn't possible to continue with my meal anymore.

The sense of schadenfreude ended.

Following the blonde haired loli, I got up from the edge of the bed as well.

Allen who noticed it, called out to me.

"Aa, Tanaka-san….." [Allen]

"This seems like a good time to end this. Please excuse me too." [Tanaka]

"…….I'm really sorry for the trouble." [Allen]

Though regrettable, I should withdraw from here too after the blonde haired loli.

However, even after he has fallen into such predicament, he still responded to me like a proper gentleman. He's unmistakably a great man. If I hadn't brought the blonde haired loli along, this wouldn't have happened to him. Honestly, I was bracing myself to receive at least a criticism from him but, he ended up apologizing to me instead.

His good points are clearly evident. It's not surprising that he's popular with girls. He possessed such a straightforward nature. I'm certain that his lower part can stand upright immediately too.

I wonder if the curvature of that place be rectified.

I went back to my room and rolled around on my bed.

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It must be a straight impact. My body became unexpectedly exhausted. After returning to the room and lay on the bed for just a few moments, I lost my consciousness unknowingly. It must have been a pretty deep sleep because all my fatigue has gone completely when I realized it. What time is it now?

I went to the deck from the cabin to take a look.

Upon stepping out, a beautiful morning glow of sunrise greeted my sight.

“Uwaa, it’s amazingly beautiful….” [Tanaka]

I was moved.

I was deeply moved by the scenic view.

This alone was well worth the dragon extermination trip.

Somehow the mountain-ish scenery around gave me a sense of ‘Dun dun dun dunnn!’ from the other side. The sight of the rising sun behind, casting its rays on the mountain, gradually exuding a luminous glow from the peak gave off the best feeling. I would like to take a photo of this.

“You’ve slept for a considerably long time.” [Fahren]

“Eh? Aa, hello. Good morning.” [Tanaka]

“Umu” [Fahren]

When did he make his appearance here? Without realizing it, the noble mage was already standing right beside me.

My eyes that were originally cleansed by the spectacle of the morning glow are now tainted by the appearance of this ossan.

This person couldn’t possibly have stayed up all night at the deck, could he?

“…..did you perhaps not get any sleep?” [Tanaka]

“The automatic piloting speed dropped in the middle of last night. The knight whom you have brought along was standing guard too after dark so we can deal with it just in case.” [Fahren]

“I see. If that is the case then it’s good but….” [Tanaka]

Mercedes-chan stayed up for two nights straight!? Will she be all right?

“One can always manage their own health so there is no need for you to worry about it. I could make it fly the entire night too if I wanted to. The place that my feet can reach, extend as far as the Dark Continent at the least.” [Fahren]

“I was just slightly curious about it. Apologies if it had bothered you.” [Tanaka]

“….I wasn’t actually bothered about it.” [Fahren]

If that was the case then I’m glad.

My sense of guilt was slightly stimulated.

Since I had gone to sleep comfortably by myself.

“Considering the return trip, it might not be a bad idea to teach FitClarence’s daughter the method in steering the airship too. I’ll give her the guidance once I find the appropriate time. Doing so might possibly achieve more distance.” [Fahren]

“It would be of great help if you can do so.” [Tanaka]

“But that girl hasn’t come out from her room since last night. Did something happen?” [Fahren]

“Ah no, she was just experiencing slight motion sickness.” [Tanaka]

“Personally I have not heard of the story on people experiencing motion sickness when they are operating their own airship. I have not experienced any nauseous feeling before myself so I do not understand much about it.” [Fahren]

“I see.” [Tanaka]

I think her current problem might be her mental state but, it would be a little scary to leave the piloting to her.

“I’ll check out the state of the kitchen for a while.” [Tanaka]

“Aa, I got it.” [Fahren]

I parted with the noble mage who appears to be in a good mood and went straight to Sophia-chan.

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The airship’s kitchen.

A spacious kitchen.

Besides Sophia-chan, for some reason Allen was there too. What were the former and latter doing so early in the morning? I wouldn't deny that it did pique my interest.

Just looking at the appearance of the two of them standing close to each other as they faced the stove, or to be more precise, just looking at the way Sophia-chan was directing a sickly-sweet gaze at Allen, ruined my refreshing mood in the morning.

"Good morning." [Tanaka]

I crossed the threshold and greeted them, causing Sophia-chan's shoulder to tremble at the same time. She turned behind frantically. Upon seeing me, she looked somewhat compose as she heaved a sigh. She must have shuddered, probably thinking that the noble mage was assaulting her.

On the other hand, Allen was able to maintain his composure as he turned over calmly.

"Tanaka-san. Good morning." [Allen]

"Could Allen-san possibly be the one who is usually in charge of cooking?"

"No, I don't usually do so……" [Allen]

Could he have been aiming for the taste of Sophia-chan's pussy since yesterday? That pussy belongs to me. Although the person herself might refuse it, it's the one that I wanted at least. It was no exaggeration to say that I have reserved it.

She's definitely a virgin. I believe it.

"At this rate, it would be impossible to work together as a party so I would like to improve Ester's mood somehow. But Sophia-san said it was impossible for me to borrow the kitchen." [Allen]

"I see. So that's how it is." [Tanaka]

Certainly that loli appears to be the type who is easily influenced by food.

"N-No, it's not impossible. If I can be of help to Allen-san then, I will gladly help

you in any way I can. Rather, to be able to stand together in the same kitchen with knight-sama is my greatest honour!!" [Sophia]

Sophia-chan appears to be really happy.

It was the most contented smile I have seen on her so far.

Is this the power of ikemen? It's unbearable.

I ended up smiling here too.

"If that's the case then why don't I help too? Though I may not look like it, I have somewhat confidence in my skill. Using the equipment here, I can probably create simple baked sweets but…" [Tanaka]

"Eh, sweets? Really?" [Allen]

"Eh….." [Tanaka]

A joyful look could be seen on Allen's face as he exclaimed out loud.

In contrast, I caught sight of a hateful look on Sophia-chan's face that came from the bottom of her heart. The latter was not really obvious but I could clearly see it. It would've been better if I haven't seen it. I think I could heal any physical damage with magic but, I don't think I could recover the damage to the heart.

"I'm sorry but, do you think you can teach me how to make it?" [Allen]

"Sure. Then let's work hard in making delicious sweets." [Tanaka]

"I'll be in your care, Tanaka-san." [Allen]

I did it! A victory to my cooking skill!

The foreshadowing of the camping incident the other day during our adventure came back again.

Although, it felt extremely unsatisfactory to take advantage of one's pessimistic way.

"Ano, I can help actually so Tanaka-san didn't need to go through the trouble to…." [Sophia]

"It's embarrassing to say this but, I have nothing else to do now. This is also a

form of interaction so would you join us as well? We will be fellow companions who would be fighting for life in these few days so I would like to cherish these small relations that we have with each other.” [Tanaka]

“B-But, weren’t you having an important talk with noble-sama!?” [Sophia]

“No, I had enough conversation with him already so there’s no problem.” [Tanaka]

Who would prefer talking to an ossan who is older than even themselves.

Even if you were to leave him alone, he would still be able to run most things well by himself.

“Certainly he’s a well-known noble. Nevertheless, there will be no social status difference in this party’s relationship. Rather, even if the person himself wanted an exchange that might risk exposing Allen-san to danger, I will still believe in prioritizing things that are more important.” [Tanaka]

“Ta-Tanaka-san, for you to have gone so far as to say something like this…… I’m really grateful!” [Allen]

“But, that….” [Sophia]

The ikemen was only one reflected in her pupils the entire time.

This person is definitely a menkui. There’s no doubt about it. (面食い (menkui) = someone who only goes for people with a beautiful or handsome face) “Besides, Sophia-san still needs to prepare breakfast too. Thus, if I were the one to help him, it wouldn’t cause any problem to everyone else. I do not hate doing this kind of work so please let me help too.” [Tanaka]

So, why don’t you let me do it?

That was a flawless and logical explanation.

Once I won over the ikemen to my side, Sophia-chan no longer has any other means to oppose to it.

“….I-Is that so.” [Sophia]

Even though it was just slightly, she directed her glance down to her feet, showing a conduct that indirectly conveyed how she didn’t find it amusing. I

might fail to notice it if I wasn't such a Sophia-chan mania.

The feeling was slightly refreshing.

The image of her frightened state yesterday seems like a thing of the past now.

"Well then, let's start sweets making immediately." [Tanaka]

"Yes, Tanaka-san. I'll be counting on you to give me the guidance." [Allen]

smile A slight smile floated across the ikemen's face.

"I-I'll be in your care!" [Sophia]

Sophia-chan frantically responded with a big smile on her face to camouflage her earlier expression.

I love that side of you too.

squeeze The one place that couldn't recover ended up getting stimulated, giving me a sense of pleasure.

I wonder if I'm a masochist. I guess I'm a masochist.

I wound up making the snacks happily with Sophia-chan and Allen.

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Judging from the result, Allen's strategy was a big success.

After breakfast, it happened just as she was seated at the table, sipping her tea.

"E-Ester, will you accept this?" [Allen]

"…..What? What is it?" [Ester]

Allen brought up the subject again before everyone's eyes.

He was probably doing this out of concern for the others. With exception to the noble mage who has brought the meal back to his room to eat and the lesbo lady knight who looked fatigued due to the late night shift, there were only five people here. In the uncordial atmosphere, the ikemen whipped a paper bag out of his breast pocket.

I wonder how many baked goods were kept in that small paper bag consisting of imitation cookies. Allen made them beside Sophia-chan earlier while she was

preparing breakfast.

The reason why I said they were imitation cookies were because the ingredients that were used were slightly different than the ones I knew. Flour, sugar and butter do not exist in this world. Nevertheless, we managed to find similar looking foodstuff that we could make use of to make them. Hence they were imitation cookies.

The texture of the food looks like cookies themselves. They were sweet and deliciously crunchy.

Well, it'll be good to call them cookies.

"Would you eat them? They are your favourite sweets." [Allen]

"H-Haa? Wh-Why sweets…." [Ester]

"I want to reconcile with you so I made them while being taught by Tanaka-san." [Allen]

"Eh? Allen did this!?" [Ester]

"Un." [Allen]

"….I see." [Ester]

Right at that moment, the blonde haired loli's expression became gentle.

She's easy. She's way too easy.

If you don't work harder, my meal wouldn't taste nice.

"Do you not like them?" [Allen]

"I-If you have gone through that trouble much trouble just to make them, then I don't mind accepting them." [Ester]

"Is that true? Thank you. I'm glad." [Allen]

Allen would definitely be smiling pleasantly here.

He will definitely be grinning from ear to ear.

See! He really is doing it!

I had gradually grasped the ability to read Allen's facial expression now.

I have not put it into practice or anything like that but it was somehow embedded into my mind little by little.

Damn it!

“……Will it be all right for me to eat them?” [Ester]

“I would be happy to know what you think of them, I think.” [Allen]

“Un…..” [Ester]

She put the cookie into her small cute mouth and crunched it as Allen looked at her with a smile on his face.

On the opposite of them, Sophia-chan was just sitting in line without any expression on her face as usual. The group sex team is currently occupying the entire dining table that was meant for 6 people.

“How is it?” [Allen]

“…H-Hmmh, it’s not comparable to the things that I usually eat at all.” [Ester]

“I see….I’m sorry. I will try making the next one better…” [Allen].”

“But!! I-I don’t dislike the taste!” [Ester]

“Ester….” [Allen]

Allen was gazing at her longingly.

At this point, if he were to use an attack that would stimulate one’s maternal instinct, no woman will be able to win against him anymore.

Ester-chan was just as I expected.

“…….This is seriously the last time. There won’t be another time, absolutely.” [Ester]

“Thank you, Ester. I’m really happy now.” [Allen]

“H-Hmph! I was just in a good mood!” [Ester]

The blonde haired loli glanced away, emanating an embarrassed yet happy kind of feeling.

This damn tsundere-chan.

Looking at their affectionate appearance caused my heart to ache.

This is not good.

I need recovery magic now.

I need a magic to cure the heart.

If I were to think about this calmly, this is what happens after I decreased Sophia-chan's favourability and mediated relationship between Allen and the blonde haired loli. Just how much of a masochist was I?! Leaving them alone would actually make it much tastier for me. What a stupid thing I've done!

Although, this is a necessary step to take for the sake of our mission.

"……."

I stood up quietly from my seat and left the dining room without anyone noticing.

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Thus, I have further concluded from this incident that recovery magic has no effect on the damage to one's heart.

Even if I were to use a healing magic as strong as my MP would permit, I will not be able to fill up the large gaping hole in my heart.

Let's try the sustaining type magic that I overheard from the rumours.

It is the kind you use when you are in constant pain.

In that instant, a tremendous power pervaded me, unexpectedly causing my whole body to shine brightly at the same time. However, the emptiness of my heart became even more distinctive, making me feel depressed all the more.

Halfway through the noble mage suddenly barged into the room with an extremely shocked look his face. After explaining it to him that nothing was going on, I forcibly persuaded him to go back. I didn't want to see this ossan's face now, especially in times like this.

In short, my mental was at its limit.

"….Should I just go to sleep?" [Tanaka]

Out of bad mood, I stayed in bed.

The only cure for this heart illness would be two dimensional erotic images. I missed masturbating in front of my computer. Come to think of it, I have not masturbated at all for the past several days. How unhealthy. I must have accumulated quite a lot now.

As a result of the recovery magic I used earlier, my body was in tip top condition too.

"……"

Once I became conscious of it, there was no turning back for me anymore.

I started masturbating while visualizing Ester-chan and Sophie-chan's group sex scene.

It was the best feeling. Sophie-chan in particular felt really good.

Well that's because Sophie-chan is cute.

Part 1

An edited, polished version with the help of RedEye.

Edited by: RedEye

Dragon Extermination 2 (1/3)

A certain event happened in the afternoon of the second day on our flight aboard the airship.

“A strategy meeting?” [Fahren]

“We’ll be arriving at our destination the next day so there should be things to discuss about before that.” [Tanaka]

“….That’s true.” [Fahren]

This exchange took place an hour before in my room with the noble mage.

And so, we summoned everyone and had all party members gather to exchange ideas. Everyone, including Sophia-chan whose role was non-combative, assembled together in an area resembling a huge living room.

Resting on the sofa, we all faced each other with a drink in our hand.

In hindsight, wasn’t that the first opportunity we had to gather everyone in one place, including the noble mage? Considering his so-called high ranking position, he must have ended up being isolated most of the time. I have a sneaking suspicion that he creates these situations occasionally.

The blonde haired loli?

Displaying her tsundere characteristics, she had magnificently blended into the group.

She’s actually a good person but she plainly hates this ugly middle-aged ossan. Well, that’s natural for most people. If I were a woman, I don’t think I would ever come to like an ugly middle-aged old man like myself either. That’s a given.

“Anyway let us begin our session in devising a countermeasure to defeat the dragon.”

Without further delay, the one leading the session was the ugly middle-aged old man.

Yeah it was me.

I’m sorry.

Congregating around a short table, we began our discussion after everyone was seated. There were two three-seater sofas and one box-shaped one-seater sofa. The three members of team group sex were seated on one while the other one was occupied by me, the noble mage and Mercedes-chan. Sophia-chan seated herself in the remaining sofa.

“First of all, we will be deciding on the formation to take on that day.” [Tanaka]

I cut to the chase at once.

I shared the scene that I had envisioned beforehand.

Despite my interpretation, I was actually giving a trivial explanation, like having no intel on the last boss of an internet game.

“Allen-san and Mercedes-san will be the vanguard while me and Fahren-san will be the rear guard. Ester-san and Sophie-san will be supporting from the side.” [Tanaka]

Actually, that was all.

“As for the responsibilities of the rear guard, I will be in charge of healing and also aiding the people around. Fahren-san, Ester-san and Sophie-san, please help in the terms of firepower.” [Tanaka]

I’m not really sure about the two loli bitches but, this role should be well-suited for the noble mage.

We’ll have to do our best in various ways this time.

“For the two vanguards, please do your utmost to draw the attention of the dragon but it’s not necessary to be on the offensive. Prioritize your safety first.” [Tanaka]

“W-Wait a minute!” [Mercedes]

Mercedes raised her hand.

In spite of her drained complexion, she opened her pale-blue lips, voicing out.

“Regardless of the circumstances, such an important role of leading as a vanguard against a Red Dragon is just too…” [Mercedes]

She looked like she couldn’t spit out what she wanted to say in the presence of the noble mage.

Especially since the noble mage was just sitting right beside her.

In any event I guess an unpleasant task was still an unpleasant task to her. Thank you very much for voicing out your desperate opinion without reservation.

Is the Dragon that dangerous?

“If you lose just an arm or a leg, I’ll be able to restore them immediately so please rest assured.” [Tanaka]

There were proven results.

“But!” [Mercedes]

Mercedes-chan still persisted in it.

Glancing at Allen from the corner of my eye, I saw him glancing down at his feet spiritless. Because he had the all-important task of protecting the blonde-haired loli, there was no room for him to object. However, the look of reluctance on his face portrayed his desire to not participate if possible.

I can’t give up, I thought. If this dragon extermination quest falls apart, my house would be mortgaged due to debt and someone from somewhere would take it away from me. That must be prevented at all cost. In order to avoid that, I have to kill one or two dragons by any means.

“Mercedes-san, I understand your reservations.” [Tanaka]

“Then!” [Mercedes]

*glance*glance* The lady knight threw occasional glances at the noble mage, intimidated by his gaze.

“Nevertheless, this is a serious national issue. Her Royal Princess, the King’s beloved daughter, is currently on the brink of death. There have been many great rulers who ended up abusing their power and taking the wrong path after losing their love ones. Looking back through history, you can see this is true, can’t you?” [Tanaka]

For the sake of convincing her, I mixed in facts with non-existent details noncommittally.

“Of course, I can’t say that it’s inevitable. However, you can’t refute the possibility either. Therefore, as citizens staying in his country, it might not be an exaggeration to say that this mission is a crusade that will determine the fate of the entire country.” [Tanaka]

“A-Aren’t you disrespecting the King with that speech!?” [Mercedes]

The desperate look on Mercedes as she protested was cute.

“If that is the case then I’ll pay the price by curing the illness of Her Royal Highness Princess.” [Tanaka]

I stared at her with a straight face.

“Even if you are one of the knights, you report me directly and blab anything you want, that’s fine with me.” [Tanaka]

“!……” [Mercedes]

The other party couldn’t even utter out a single sound.

It was decided for real then. That was cool of me.

Though only on the exterior.

“I do think that it will be very troublesome. But, I would like everyone to lend me your power. This mission will be impossible by myself. The keystone in succeeding the dragon extermination expedition this time is the trust from everyone here. All for one and one for all, not leaving anyone out. If it’s not for this Dragon Slayer team, it will not be possible to accomplish this mission.” [Tanaka]

The little girl in the town has said it before.

I believe in the little girl.

Since I am a lolicon.

But I do like huge breasts too.

"……Yesterday, didn't you feel anything even after receiving that violent torrent of magic?" [Fahren]

He directed his gaze at Mercedes-chan who was sitting next to him.

Owing to that, she trembled violently. She was freaked out.

"I-I'm sorry. The torrent you meant…" [Mercedes]

"Don't you think you should consider what happened? Didn't this person display magnificent proof yesterday? Even after witnessing that, you still can't comprehend? This is why those who can't understand magic are worthless." [Fahren]

He directed his glance here the moment he said *'this person'*.

Apparently he was talking about me.

"Mm…….M-My humble apologies!!" [Mercedes]

Mercedes-chan got up from the sofa frantically and prostrated.

kosu kosu Her forehead was rubbing against the carpet profusely as she stretched out and bowed.

Had she kept it up, the surface of her forehead would have grown.

Just how scary is the nobility?

Although, what the noble mage said sounded ambiguous. Was the 'magnificent proof' referring to that bullshit reasoning? I didn't get what he meant either but it was better to let it slide. I should just go with the flow.

"Now, now Fahren-san. Let's just get along. There will be other opportunities later." [Tanaka]

"…..Fuun, fine then. I will overlook it this time to save this person's face." [Fahren]

"T-Thank you very much!" [Mercedes]

As though she has just narrowly escaped death, tears could be seen welled up in her eyes as she couldn't contain her composure.

I wondered if I would be feared like this too once I became a noble. I started considering it, maybe being a noble wasn't too bad. Having a voluptuous beauty prostrate before you is the best. That might be my next goal after I complete the youth-restoration potion someday.

I'll aim for something like a duke.

"Anyway, it might be a simplification to your roles, but that's all I have." [Tanaka]

I continued looking at the people around.

"Does anyone have anything to ask?" [Tanaka]

At my question, the blonde haired loli raised a query.

She seemed to be in pretty good mood, probably because she reconciled with Allen.

Her complexion improved too so she'd most likely gotten over her motion sickness.

"Is there a more concrete strategy?" [Ester]

"….Let's see." [Tanaka]

She hit where it hurt most, despite being a non-virgin.

I don't have anything like that now.

I was just going to wing it. *After us, the deluge*. [1]

That's because we had someone with the maximum level of recovery magic as well as the noble mage ossan. We also had two vanguards so I thought we should be able to get by somehow. Mercedes-chan ought to be around level 35 so she's was quite strong too. She was peerless when she was fighting against the military police when we broke out of prison.

"I guess the important thing is our battle position." [Tanaka]

"Battle position?" [Ester]

Thus I'll get through it by giving an appropriate reply.

In my school days, that was how I drew out the large-scale boss from the internet game I was addicted to.

"I'm not really sure as well but since the opponent is a dragon, the thing that we need to take note of mostly is its breath. In order to avoid that, we need to have sufficient space among ourselves and make use of the terrain as shields. By taking all these into account in advance, an advantageous positioning will enable us to make a definite pre-emptive strike." [Tanaka]

Utilizing the topography of an area is one of the strongest tradition used by low level characters when they hunt for high level MOB. [2]

Rather, any internet games that don't provide geographical features as cover are consequently trashy games.

Just who decided that? It was me. I decided that just now.

If possible, we should aim for the wings. Since our main objective is to retrieve its liver and not simply defeat it, we should restrict its movement as much as possible." [Tanaka]

"Hmm, it seems that you thought this through." [Fahren]

"If we can land the first successful hit at that time, I would like Fahren-san to take charge of it…" [Tanaka]

I passed the subject to the noble mage indirectly.

The probability of anyone defying this person should be zero.

"I don't mind it. I was planning to do so from the beginning." [Fahren]

"Thank you very much. Then, we can probably press on with that." [Tanaka]

Okay. It's perfect.

I was able to deceive them well.

"Richard's daughter, it'll be good if you remember the current conversation well." [Fahren]

"What do you mean by that, Lord Fahren?" [Ester]

“What this person said is truly valuable for one who wishes to challenge a dragon. In future, if you were to decide on practising magic, this trip will prove to be an invaluable experience for you.” [Fahren]

“…….Yes. Thank you for the advice.” [Ester]

The blonde haired loli nodded meekly.

Come to think of it, this person is a student from ossan’s school.

Her lack of tsundere-like mannerisms was proof of her respect for him.

But well, he was flattering me a lot.

I’m really sorry. I was actually just spouting out random details without a real plan. I wanted to come clean, but the scam strengthened the party’s bond. I wasn’t about to break it. This noble mage is seriously easy. He’s probably been too convenient.

“I hope you can learn as much as you can.” [Fahren]

“Yes, I understand.” [Ester]

However, the dissimilarity in the treatment between her and Mercedes-chan is as different as night and day. Mercedes had been prostrating in front of him, and now he was providing career guidance to the blonde haired loli in a warm-hearted manner.

“Then, does anyone else have anything to ask….” [Tanaka]

I directed my question to the group again.

This time, Sophia-chan was the one who raised her hand timidly.

“What do you need to know?” [Tanaka]

“Erm……w-will I be participating too?” [Sophia]

A reasonable question.

“If you are referring to the upcoming battle, then no. I would like you to carry on with your current duties as our cook. I’ll be counting on you to stay here and take care of things in the airship once we reach our destination. This is also an important job.” [Tanaka]

“Ah y-yes! I understand!” [Sophia]

Sophia-chan nodded with an extremely joyful expression on her face. Sophia-chan with happy smile get!

So she can smile at someone like me too.

A trivial sense of accomplishment came over me.

“By the way, I actually have a question for Fahren-san in that respect…..” [Tanaka]

“What’s wrong?” [Fahren]

“Where is this airship scheduled to land?” [Tanaka]

“We are planning to land at the town located at the foot of Mount Pepe.” [Fahren]

“I see. That means we’ll be proceeding either by foot or carriage from there.” [Tanaka]

“Umu.” [Fahren]

As expected, we wouldn’t be landing in a dragon-infested area directly.

Well, that’s true. If the battle reaches the airship, it would be troublesome if we were to end up damaging it.

“The Red Dragon is living in the vicinity of the river mouth located at Mount Pepe. Its existence is currently considered to be at the top of the ecosystem in the neighbourhood. Moreover, just a few levels below the Red Dragon, demons such as flare wyverns and salamanders are also inhibiting the areas.” [Fahren]

“I see.” [Tanaka]

The terminologies used in fantasy were gushing out, barraging me endlessly.

It was like reading a walkthrough from a game book out loud with a straight face in a company meeting.

It was unbearable.

“Therefore, we should probably consider the contacting the locals in the surrounding area…” [Fahren]

That was when it happened, cutting off the noble mage mid-sentence.

Zzuzuunn Just when I thought it was just a low sound reverberating through the room, the whole living room suddenly started wobbling furiously, shaking in all directions.

The shaking was really intense, probably at the scale of magnitude 7 or 8.

“Uuuoooo-!?” [Tanaka]

I let out a scream unintentionally.

Similarly, the other people also raised their voices out of surprise.

Something definitely went seriously wrong.

In the midst of the intense tremor, all the members scrambled to the deck.

Rinkage’s Footnotes

1. “After us, the deluge” is a French expression, attributed to Marquise de Pompadour, the lover of King Louis XV of France. The alternative form is “Après moi le déluge”.
Definition: “After my reign, let chaos and destruction come”.
(someone who acts irresponsibly, without worrying about the consequences of his actions)
The original raw in Japanese is “後は野となれ山となれだ”.

2. MOB = generic term for any non-player entity whose primary purpose is to be killed for experience, quest objective, or loot.

Part 2

Here's the long-awaited second part for Atelier Tanaka. A big thanks to our new Atelier Tanaka editor, KawaiiAss for editing and polishing this chapter.
TL: Rinkage
Edited by: KawaiiAss

Dragon Extermination 2 (2/3)

"A-A flight of flare wyverns!?" [Fahren]

The noble mage cried out as soon as we got to the deck, prompting all of us to look ahead.

A group of winged, dragon-like creatures could be seen floating in the air, surrounding our airship from a distance. Among them, there were also several wyverns that appeared to be bracing themselves to ram their bodies against the airship. That might be what that has led to the vibration earlier.

"…..is this possibly, dangerous?"

I don't think this is just possibly dangerous. I have a feeling that this is a dangerous situation.

Their sizes are gigantic. The wingspan of each of them is about 7 or 8 metres. At first glance, they looked like normal dragons.

In order to surround the airship, quite a number of the wyverns grouped together as they drew closer to the airship. Seriously, what are we going to do?!

I felt like I was about to pee myself. Actually, I think I have wet myself a little.

I could feel my pee trickling down little by little, the insides of my underwear are starting to feel warmer. I understand. My pee will soon become cold and, by then it will feel highly unpleasant.

I earnestly hope I can find a solution that would be able to keep the leaked out urine warm during this fight.

“This looks bad. The wind barrier put up is not strong enough to withstand the wyvern’s breath attack or body slam. If we are attacked by that many of them at once, we’ll definitely crash.“ [Fahren]

“H-Hii–….”

“No way…..”

Mercedes-chan and Sophia-chan’s cries could be heard in response to ossan’s mutterings.

They’re the same when it comes to their mental fortitude.

It can’t be helped. This is the time for me and ossan to come forth.

“Fahren-san, I’m sorry but could you accompany me?” [Tanaka]

“Umu. I would of done so anyway, you didn’t even have to tell me.” [Fahren]

What a reliable ossan.

If I were a woman, I’d fall for him. There’s no doubt about that.

Leaving the others on the deck, we made our way to the side of the airship.

In an open space that is roughly a dozen tatami mats in size, we turned towards the flight of wyverns in the sky.

I had a premonition that this is like an encounter that you would see before a battle in a game.

By the way, what are the stats of these guys?

Name: Francisca
Sex: Female
Race: Flare Wyvern
Level: 66
Job: Housewife[1]
HP：10009/10609
MP：1200/2305
STR：8500
VIT：5662
DEX：4752

AGI: 19942
INT: 3490
LUC: 2360

Name: Michelle
Sex: Female
Race: Flare Wyvern
Level: 62
Job: Housewife
HP: 8009/9609
MP: 2001/2525
STR: 7900
VIT: 5062
DEX: 5252
AGI: 18900
INT: 4182
LUC: 2060

Name: Rachel
Sex: Female
Race: Flare Wyvern
Level: 67
Job: Maid[2]
HP: 11800/12610
MP: 1700/1705
STR: 7900
VIT: 5962
DEX: 3952
AGI: 15220
INT: 2500
LUC: 1363

Are you serious?! Aren't these stats around the same as the high orc?

Their agility is twice as high. Even though the endurance is about half of the high orc's, their STR and INT are somewhat high. In short, the most effective method to combat the wyverns would be to take all of them down in one shot.

Although, if I were to miss my first attack, they are likely to respond with a deadly counterattack. These kinds of enemies would usually make their appearance in the last dungeon, and deplete all of a low level player's recovery items. It's the type of enemy that is hated the most by users who like clearing stages at low levels.

Rather, what are the chances of winning with my current stats?

Name: Tanaka
Gender: Male
Race: Human
Level: 35
Job: Alchemist
HP: 4909/4609
MP: 99500000/99500000
STR: 375
VIT: 560
DEX: 852
AGI: 442
INT: 7922000
LUC: 29

As usual, the INT and MP are the only ones that have increased by a miraculous margin.

With an exception to LUC, the other stats are several times higher than Mercedes-chan's.

That said, it would still be dangerous.

The possibility of a one-hit-kill doesn't seem high.

Nevertheless, this is not the time for despair. Seeing that I have defeated the high orc the same way, my magic could still overpower their endurance in a single hit.

Kill them before they kill you if not it'll work out somehow. In actuality, if I don't figure something out now, it would be really bad.

Since it has come to this, I should prepare myself for the worst.

This is all for the sake of the house. It's all for my home.

Aa, when I think of it this way, I could feel my courage coming back to me.

My dear beloved home.

Please bestow courage upon me.

"They have completely surrounded the airship. It might be quite unsettling to act separately but, Fahren-san, could you return to the rear of the ship? Leave the area around the bow to me!" [Tanaka]

"Hou, you sound quite confident there. The number of wyverns there are much higher. Is that fine with you? I have come to understand that healing magic is your forte though." [Fahren]

"My other magic might look cute compared to my healing magic but, it does have a somewhat high offensive power." [Tanaka]

"I understand. Then I'll leave it to you. I'll step back and see what you've got." [Fahren]

"Thank you very much." [Tanaka]

"Wait stop! W-What should I be doing!? I I–!" [Ester]

She could have just stayed back on the airship shivering in fright but, she wanted to come with us instead.

"You will be his backup." [Fahren]

"I-I understand!" [Ester]

Even though she's someone with a self-important attitude, she nodded

obediently. Was it because of the noble mage? Or was it due to her realization that we are currently in a dire situation? She would look cute if only she acted like this on daily basis.

Well, it has nothing to do with me even if there's a change in this non-virgin's behaviour.

What's important now are the wyverns.

After distributing specific roles to everyone, each member made their move accordingly.

On noticing us approaching them, the opponents that were initially preparing to ram their body against the airship halted their actions.

Gururururu They seem to be making a strange sound. It sounds like they're scrutinizing us.

It looks like the group of monsters were observing the situation.

What is this? Are they planning to fly? The same as us?

It was as though I was able to understand their conversations.

I should not miss out on this opportunity. If this juice continues trickling down any more than this, the colour of my underwear might change. This must be avoided at all cost.

At the very least, I want preserve my dignity until I obtain the dragons liver. (EN:lol why is the author so obsessed with pee) That is why, this is the time to display my pride and willpower.

"Ester-chan." [Tanaka]

"W-What is it!?" [Ester]

"Just watch and learn. This is something that you will not learn in school." [Tanaka]

An ambiguous sexual harassment.

It's a line that I wanted to say at least once.
I raised my arm over my head.

"!!……." [Ester]

Numerous fireballs appeared where she was staring.

The number of fireballs released were far more than the time of the high orc battle. There is a lot more space in the sky compared to last time so I was able to spread the fireballs all over.

Moreover, I have more than enough MP at my disposal. I produced several times more fireballs than the number of wyverns flying in the air.

Was it because my INT increased when I leveled up? The size of the individual fireballs looks big, at about 1 metre in diameter.

This feels great.

“Wha–…..” [Ester]

The blonde haired loli held her breath at the sight.

Would you want to drink my juice together? That is not something that I can say. (EN:lol wut) (TL: don’t ask xD) “These are what real fireballs look like.” [Tanaka]

That was cool of me. Seriously.

If these are not sufficient in bringing them down, then it’s game over for me.

Please. Please let these fireballs work.

My favourite fireballs.

“Go!!!” [Tanaka]

I swung my right arm forward, launching the fireballs at an incredible speed. One after another balls of fire were released towards the group of wyverns flying in the sky.

By linking the wyverns as flying targets, each of the fireballs homed in on them like missiles, creating an unstoppable force.

The wyverns naturally reacted to it and tried evading the attacks before they were hit.

However, due to the blazing force, the wyverns were not able to dodge all the attacks, resulting in the wyverns being hit consecutively.

Technically speaking, if this is a fantasy-like world, wouldn't using fire attacks be ineffective against enemies with fire attributes?

I can't help thinking about this, but well, since it seemed to work, it's not a problem. [3]
Just like insects that were swatted out of the air, all the wyverns that received direct hits started falling one by one.

That said, a great number is a great number.

I wonder if I can strike all the wyverns down.

I continued exchanging fireballs with two or three energetic wyverns.

Oi, what's up with this guy. Stop coming after me.
The current situation resembles something like that.

You're quite fast there, wyvern. You're flying at such great speed.

This might be a little dangerous.

"……"

There were little voices whispering in my head calmly, tempting me to desert the blonde haired loli and run away.

However, I think I should try enduring it for now. If the blonde haired loli were killed here by chance, I might lose all the trust Allen has in me.

We have yet to encounter the dragon so there is a possibility that the noble mage might break off the agreement in helping me. As a result, the party might collapse.

No way. I will not allow that to happen.

For that reason, all I can do now is to believe in the strength of my own fireballs.

Fireball is the best.

In actual fact, it can also be considered a Meteor Storm.

If I were to create countless fireballs in the sky then fire them towards the ground like a torrent of rain, it might be mistaken as a Meteor Storm attack. No, it will definitely look like one. I wonder how many people could tell the

difference. Even the substance looks similar physically.

All in all it should be fine.

I'm sure that it would be all right too this time.

I desperately tried to stop my knees from trembling. All these thoughts were swirling in my head.

However, my expectations were betrayed.

"……There is one more remaining." [Tanaka]

The remaining wyvern that survived was a cunning one. It had avoided all the fireball attacks by using its own kind as shield.

GYAA

After confirming that all the fireballs have disappeared, that wyvern let out an ear-splitting roar as it glared angrily in my direction. It doesn't seem to have any intention to escape from here. I wonder if wyverns are an aggressive species.

It will fight to the bitter end even if it's the last surviving one. Seriously, just how passionate is this wyvern.

"W-Wait a minute, that one–!" [Ester]

"Yeah. This looks bad, doesn't it?" [Tanaka]

I tried preparing another fireball in a hurry after the blonde haired loli pointed it out.

Just I was doing so, the wyvern directed its gaze here and opened its mouth.

The wyvern's intention was plain to see, even to me.

"What the hell." [Tanaka]

To make matters worse, it was aiming at the blonde haired loli.

Apparently it seems to have adapted the strategy of aiming at weaker ones first.

You're really smart, wyvern. Too smart.

If I were to make a comparison, the ability of the wyvern and the orc that used direct attacks are worlds apart.

“Kyaaaaaaaaaaa–!” [Ester]

The blonde haired loli screamed.

At the same time, flames gushed out of the wyvern’s mouth.

It’s like a flamethrower.

I had once watched a video that was published to the public on how the Japanese Strategic Self Defense Force (JSSDF) handle flamethrowers. The strength of the flames breathed out at her now is double of what I had seen in the video. Several people standing within a 10 metre radius would be easily swallowed up by that blazing flame.

In other words, the blonde haired loli is in a pinch.

“Uooooooo–!!” [Tanaka]

My body moved instantly.

In order to protect her loli-sized body from the flames, I pulled her into an embrace and turned around with my back facing the wyvern.(EN: Author keeps mentioning the word loli, I think he is trying to tell us something.) (TL: I think he’s referring to the size of a certain part of her body)(EN: (͡° ͜ʖ ͡°)) I ended up receiving the damage directly on my back.

At this rate, the blonde haired loli might get swallowed up by the flames too, reducing even her bones into nothing but ash.

Hence I invoked a sufficient amount of recovery magic for two people in one go. This magic might not be able to heal the damage to the heart but, in the case of physical injuries, it’s unrivalled in the field of recovery magic.

I confirmed it last night. This is a type of sustaining magic.

“Uu, guu, wh-what is this feeling….” [Tanaka]

My back was being burnt.

However, the burnt area was healed instantly.

The process repeated itself over and over.

The wyverns flame seems to be endless.

As a result, the flesh on my back was burnt, then healed, burnt, then healed, burnt, then healed once again. I now understand the feelings of meat shields that endure attacks from enemy bosses by barraging themselves with recovery items.

The unpleasant scent of burning flesh began permeating the air, giving me the slight urge to throw up. The smell must have come from my own body. It was so strong that it was beyond the stench of hair being burnt by a lighter.

The only thing that eased the whole ordeal was that it wasn't too painful. The scorched area was throbbing endlessly, making me feel highly uncomfortable. I don't think I would like to go through this for a long period of time.

"W-Wait what are you–!" [Ester]

The blonde haired loli shouted as she looked at me, looking extremely shocked.

"Please try enduring it a little longer. It'll be difficult for the wyvern to keep it up for a long time." [Tanaka]

"That's not it–!! The f-flame! It's burning your back!" [Ester]

"It feels just a little warmer than the bath at home. Leaving that aside, are you okay?" [Tanaka]

"Wha–…." [Ester]

"Allen-san would be angry if there are any burn marks on that cute face of yours. It'll be all right. I will definitely protect you. I might seem unreliable to you but, please believe in me." [Tanaka]

I smiled bitterly at her. This might be the only moment in which the atmosphere around made me look like an ikemen.

If a mere wyvern were to make me lose my fighting spirit here, it wouldn't be realistic to defeat a Red Dragon. I should probably re-evaluate the capabilities of that group of lizards. I devised a plan in my head as I put on a calm front. This is also for the sake of my house. I should bear it.

Bear it.

The wyverns flame attacked seems to be getting weaker.

This is the end of its breath attack.

Not wanting to give it another opportunity, I stood up in a hurry.

I turned around and faced the wyvern.

“Ah…..” [Tanaka]

That was when I noticed it.

My body might be safe but, my clothing was beyond salvation. Portions were reduced to ash while the other areas were carbonized—turning completely black.

My entire clothes have turned into pieces of cloth. If the remaining fabric were to fall off onto the deck now, it would be an instant explosive rebirth of a middle-aged ugly man in his birthday suit.

Although, it might make me feel highly excited to stand naked in front of the blonde haired loli.

This is dangerous. I might get an erection. It’s starting to become a habit now.

“Eeeeh, eat this!” [Tanaka]

As such, I ended up throwing a fireball frantically, and killed the last surviving wyvern.

Huuu The pseudodragon fell to the ground.

I confirmed that all the wyverns here have been defeated.

That was what I was thinking when the blonde haired loli suddenly started rebuking me in an extremely flustered tone of voice.

“H-Hold on! Here–!” [Ester]

“Eh?” [Tanaka]

“At least please conceal the front! I-It’s completely exposed!” [Ester]

“Aa, s-sure. Thank you very much.” [Tanaka]

The blonde haired loli threw some kind of clothing to me.

What she has given me was her outer garment. Her robe.

Taking the future dragon extermination mission into account, it wouldn't be good to expose my splendidly erected son to her. If this were a return trip, then it's fine to unleash everything. It would be an opportunity to reach even the point of 'Ochinchinbiron'[4] seen in the dream.

Seriously, you've done something regrettable there, wyvern.

You just came at us as you like. I wish you had tried considering the circumstances here beforehand.

"Is this really alright?" [Tanaka]

Would it be fine even if this middle-aged oyaji's uncut dick were to brush against the surface of this expensive looking fluffy white robe belonging to ojou-sama? Would it really be alright? I can't guarantee that none of my hair would wind up getting stuck on the robe when I make vigorous movements. It'll definitely happen. (EN: (ﾟ5ﾟ)) (TL: Lol, that expression is seriously priceless) "I-It's fine! H-H-H-Hurry up and conceal it–!" [Ester]

Ester-chan cried out, blushing furiously.

However, her eyes, with a bright sparkle seemed to fall upon my son. I felt overwhelmed by the gaze. Moreover, the fact that it was coming from a non-virgin made me confused. She should have familiarized herself with Allen's penis by now.

That aside, this is a welcomed offer. She didn't seem to mind if I were to use it as a loincloth. Since this would be really helpful to me, I just accepted it obediently and wrapped it around my waist.

It gave me a strange feeling when the long fur brushed against certain sensitive areas on my body.

It felt a little good.

"Whew…." [Tanaka]

I breathed out in relief.

On the other hand, I could hear the blonde haired loli gulping softly.

"Aa…." [Tanaka]

As I thought, I could still feel her gaze on my crotch.

It was neither a misunderstanding nor was I being too self-conscious.

She's definitely looking at it.

This felt extremely awkward. I should simply convey my thanks to her to suppress this discomfort.

"E-Erm, thank you very much for your concern." [Tanaka]

"D-Didn't I s-say that it's fine!" [Ester]

She looks cute when she looked away as she blushed. I would like to keep looking at it. There's something amiss with the world now since I'm getting this feeling from a non-virgin.

I would like to lick her all over. Allen is seriously a lucky guy to have such a cute girlfriend like her.

No, wait. Now is not the time to be thinking of something like this.

I suddenly recalled that it's not over yet.

I could hear the sound of people fighting coming from the rear of the ship. The noble mage was probably still working hard there. There were occasional "Unuu" that sounded like the groans coming from the ossan. He might be having a hard fight now.

If so, then I can't afford to be resting leisurely here.

"Things sound quite hectic back there. Shall we go take a look?" [Tanaka]

"I-I understand! I'll be coming along too!" [Ester]

Thus, I returned to the rear of the ship with the blonde haired loli.

Rinkage's Footnotes

1. At this point, this image suddenly came to my mind.
2. A group of housewives and maids……
3. The original text is モーマンタイ = moumantai. It is a Cantonese phrase that

literally means “No problem”. This is also a commonly used phrase by the Digimon character Terriormon.
4. オチンチンびろーん = it’s hard to explain this phrase in English so if anyone has a better idea on how I should do it, please let me know.

Part 3

Here's the last part for Atelier Tanaka. Many thanks to KawaiiAss for his great work again in this chapter.

Also I would also like to extend my thanks to Jared.S and Benjamin.D. Much apologies as I usually check it manually so I didn't notice it the week before.
I'm currently working on the next part already so I'll try to get it done as soon as I can.

TL: Rinkage
Edited by: KawaiiAss

Dragon Extermination 2 (3/3)

The noble mage was battling against three wyverns.

Right when I arrived, he was just in the midst of killing one of them. He summoned a cold and brilliant looking icicle with his magic and threw it at the wyvern that was preparing to attack in the sky, rendering it incapable of fighting and fell to the ground as is.

"Are you alright!?" [Tanaka]

"Who do you think I am!" [Fahren]

"True. Then, shall I back you up?" [Tanaka]

The way the noble mage was using barrier-like magic to defend against the wyverns' breath attack looked cool.
Buon

Magic formations that were formed several meters in front, floated up into the air and dispersed all the fire breath attacks. If only I could use that, I wouldn't have ended up getting my back fried earlier.

I gazed at his back admiringly as his mantle fluttered with the wind.

"Anyway, first of all recovery, recovery." [Tanaka]

Upon a closer look, I noticed that the ossan was bleeding from the area around the joint of his right shoulder.

Was that wound caused by the wyvern's claw? The scratch was approximately a few centimeters long. I should cure it quickly with my recovery magic. Standing several meters behind him, I casted the recovery magic on his shoulder. In the twinkling of an eye, the laceration repaired itself and the bleeding subsided.

"Mu, chantless magic as usual I see…." [Fahren]

He seemed to have said something but, whatever.

In the meantime, one of the two remaining wyverns suddenly started flapping its huge wings, keeping its distance from ossan and flew below the airship. Was it thinking of escaping since the number of enemies had increased? In addition to that, its own companion was taken down too. This wyvern appeared to have different awareness than the energetic ones that I have fought earlier. I guess it was natural that there are individual differences among wyverns too.

However, just when I thought that the situation was taking a turn for the better, an unexpected development ended up betraying my expectation.

The whole airship shook violently.

"Mu–! Damn that wyvern! Is it planning to make the airship crash!?" [Fahren]

It appeared that it had never planned to flee.

"Wha–….." [Tanaka]

Aren't you a smart one, wyvern?

It is definitely different than the orc.

But, what should we do now?

"I'll leave this place to you. I'll go after that guy!" [Fahren]

"Eh? Aa, yes." [Tanaka]

How is he going to do that? That very question was soon answered when the noble mage's body suddenly rose into the air.

Amazing. This ossan flew.

“Shall I let that wyvern have it!?” [Fahren]

After shouting out a somewhat cool line, he flew off to the bottom of the airship to chase after the wyverns. However, the appearance of a middle-aged oyaji flying with both hands forward like a Superman was so surreal. I almost laughed unintentionally at that sight.

“Aa-, co, comi–…..” [Ester]

Looking at where she was staring at, the other wyvern could be seen in the midst of descending towards us.

Recognizing us as its enemies, the wyvern glided through the air and charged at us with its jaws opened wide.

“!….” [Tanaka]

This is bad.

If we were to receive a direct attack from such a huge guy, we would be killed before I could even use my healing magic.

I’ll be crushed flat along with the non-virgin[1] beside me. It might have been better if it was a breath attack instead. If I don’t defend against it somehow, it would be bad.

Just as I was thinking so, I sensed someone approaching us from the back out of a sudden.

“Just eat this knight’s sword–!!” [Mercedes]

The lesbo lady knight has come to help.

She rushed towards the blonde haired loli and me, simultaneously slicing off the wyvern’s head with the sword in her hand. Owing to her swift action, we managed to escape death by the skin of our teeth. The wyvern’s body passed by us and crashed into the deck.

That crash has created a huge hole in the floorboard now but, well let’s put that aside for the time being.

“Ester-sama, are you alright!?” [Mercedes]

Right after Mercedes-chan killed the wyvern with one hit, she went over to the

blonde haired loli.

“Eh, ee…thank you. You’ve saved me.” [Ester]

“I am undeserving of your gratitude. My heart trembles at your words.” [Mercedes]

The gaze that the lesbo lady knight was giving when she answered resembles a sex crazed middle-aged man.

I understand it well if I were to compare it with her usual look. There were strong impurities that can never be revealed to people, swirling deep inside those ‘pure’ eyes of hers. If she were to save her in the moment of peril, it would definitely lead her to homosexuality. That was what she was hoping for.

“By the way, what is with this person’s appearance……” [Mercedes]

Mercedes-chan stared at me with a scowl on her face.

I guess it must be really unpleasant to see a middle-aged oyaji dressed in something similar to a straw skirt.

I find it unpleasant too myself.

“T-The wyvern had burnt my clothes to a crisp with its breath attack.” [Tanaka]

“I see…..but isn’t that Ester-sama’s robe?” [Mercedes]

“It doesn’t really matter. Sacrificing one or two robes is better than exposing the eyes to such filth.” [Ester]

“….aa, you poor thing.” [Mercedes]

Please don’t say that. I’m feeling guilty myself too. There was a tingling sensation in my heart every time the robe’s fur brushed against my rod and balls.

“Thank you. You seemed to have killed it in one hit.” [Tanaka]

Well, well. The condition of the thing in between crotch aside, let’s confirm the situation around us.

The wyvern appeared to be killed by her in a single attack and the noble mage was injured after fighting with the wyverns earlier. There were also many places around the deck that were ruined after getting hit by the ice magic.

Mercedes-chan had by no means went in for a suicidal attack just now since she had skilfully confirmed the point of attack before swinging in the sword. After she has accurately affirmed the enemy's weak point, she was probably hoping that, with little luck, she might be able to kill it in one hit. As one would expect from a pure knight-sama.

This is good, this is good. This felt very much like how a party should be.

"I wasn't really doing it for you. It's for the sake of protecting Ester-sama." [Mercedes]

"That was what I meant. Thank you very much for protecting Ester-san." [Tanaka]

"!……" [Ester]

The blonde haired loli who was standing beside staggered.

It appeared that she has threaded her foot through the floorboard that had become brittle as a result of the fight against the wyvern. But, was she feeling embarrassed about that? She seemed to be blushing even though I was expecting a surprised reaction coming from her instead. She has just displayed quite a weak part of herself similar to a how a human should be, hasn't she?

It was a huge difference as compared to how she clicked her tongue when we met in the beginning.

"I would just like to confirm it but, what's your relationship with Ester-sama?" [Mercedes]

"We're fellow adventurers and classmates who attend the same school." [Tanaka]

"….A-Are you a student from the school?" [Mercedes]

"Is there something else on your mind that you would like to ask?" [Tanaka]

"Are you, a noble?" [Mercedes]

"I'm not? I'm a commoner. Fahren-san was the one who admitted me to the school." [Tanaka]

"……." [Mercedes]

There was a slight complicated look on her face.

It wouldn't be hard for me to imagine that she was likely able to make a conjecture on my social status and background. However, she didn't need to stay silent for so long. By the time the blonde haired loli pulled her foot out of the floorboard, she seemed to have come to herself, different than a moment ago.

"Well, if you are going that far then I'll just accept it obediently. That said, this is not the right situation to be having a leisurely conversation now. I would like to go over the full details about our current circumstances." [Ester]

"True." [Mercedes]

On the whole, the way Mercedes-chan speaks to me was the same as how colleagues speak to each other at workplace. She still does get mad at me occasionally but, she no longer points her sword at me instantly without further questions. I was treated much better now as compared to when we met for the first time.

The indecent discussion we had in the evening on the day before yesterday might have shortened the distance between us.

Indecency is the best! I love erotic topics!

"What happened to the other wyverns? I don't see Fahren-sama anywhere but, if he happened to be fighting against the wyverns at another place then we must go there to assist him." [Mercedes]

"If you're referring to him, he went after the wyverns below the airship just now." [Tanaka]

"Wha-! The bottom of the airship!?" [Mercedes]

Fright was written all over her face as she trembled but, at that very instant, the whole airship started shaking violently at the same time.

It's even stronger than just now.

The seismic intensity scale might be close to 10.

That intense shaking made us to lose our balance and tumbled off to one side. It was really painful. I felt a sharp pain on my elbows and knees due to the direct

impact when that tumble knocked me onto the deck.

Nevertheless, what's more worrisome now is the state of the airship below. Was that ossan possibly killed even though he was shooting his mouth off earlier?

In the midst of worrying, at the edge of the airship which acts as a boundary between the deck and the sky, the noble mage could be seen slowly appearing on the other side of the railing.

He looked considerably tired as he flew.

Part of his hair appeared to be burnt. I guess one of the breath attack must have hit him. Come to think of it, can recovery magic be used as a treatment for baldness?

"How did it go with the remaining wyvern?" [Tanaka]

"U-Umu. Well I did succeed in defeating it." [Fahren]

"That's good." [Tanaka]

It seemed that he was able to manage it somehow.

"But the ship was damaged in the process. It's impossible to control it now." [Fahren]

"Eh? Then this airship is……" [Tanaka]

"Fortunately, we're drawing close to our destination now. Mount Pepe is just in the vicinity. We'll be making an emergency landing as is now. It might be possible to bring it halfway up the mountain area at this altitude." [Fahren]

No, unfortunately that won't do us any good.

"So it'll be an emergency landing?" [Tanaka]

"The output is increasing at an abnormal rate. There's a possibility that the magic stone is out of control." [Fahren]

"I-I see….." [Tanaka]

I don't really understand what this ossan was saying.

I'm feeling extremely anxious now.

After all, this airship is flying at an incredible speed.

It is frightening to think that we're about to crash-land in such a state, since we are currently flying at a speed comparable to the bullet train. [2]

"There should be some time before the crash-land right?" [Tanaka]

"Umu" [Fahren]

If that's the case, then let's gather everyone here so we can exchange information." [Tanaka]

"I understand. Let's go." [Fahren]

———————————————————————————————————————

Author's note:

We've entered the kakuhen [3] mode.

Rinkage's Footnotes

1. The original word is 'no membrane' but I left it as non-virgin.
2. 新幹線 = Shinkansen (Japan's high speed train / bullet train)
3. Kakuhen (literally means 'probability change' in English) is a term used in Pachinko whereby there is a probability for a player to get a string of consecutive jackpot after the first one and the next bonus might come at odds about 10 times better than the original bonus.

Part 1

Translated by: Rinkage
Edited by: KawaiiAss

Dragon Extermination 3 (1/3)

Our destination, Mount Pepe is right before our eyes.

Preparation is complete.

“Here we go!”

The crew members could be seen on the bridge.

After meeting up with Sophia, who was on standby inside the airship, as well as Sophie and Allen, all the members were accounted for. The rocky surface of Mount Pepe finally came into everyone’s view at the front of the bridge deck.

By the way, I changed out of the blonde haired loli’s robe and into a simple shirt and trousers.

I have freed myself from my half-naked condition and returned the robe.

Although, just when I was feeling curious about what she’d do once I returned it back to her, she wrapped the robe around herself once again, wearing it presently. Even though that robe has been in contact with my willy, she took it back just like that, seeming to pay no mind to it at all. Rather, I was the one who ended up being surprised by her action.

When I tried confirming it with her, it seems to be an item that is resistant to breath attacks. “There’s no way I can challenge a dragon without wearing it first!” That was what she said. Feelings of guilt welled up inside me, tormenting my heart with each throb. The sense of immortality that surfaced simultaneously made me tremble as well.

Well, putting my fetish aside, we’ll be making our crucial emergency landing now.

“Nuun-!”

The noble mage roared as he held his staff in one hand as the center of the bridge floated up.

At the same time, the bow of the airship raised up a little.

***krrk krrk* A loud screech resounded when the layer of steel on the airship’s belly came into contact with the ground scratching against the surface. Naturally, the impact was huge. Everyone desperately clung onto chairs or anything that were installed on the bridge.**

The sole person who was not affected by this was only the noble mage that floated in the air.

Rather, flight magic is seriously convenient.

“Nuuuuuuuu-!”

The noble mage raised a cry that was unbecoming for him; with clear desperation displayed on his face.

This is apparently the crucial moment.

***Zugagagagaga* The sound of bridge rattling echoed through the air.**

Seriously, give me a break.

“W-We’re going to die! We’re going to die! Dear God!! That’s why I said it was impossible from the start!! I-It’s not possible for mere daughter of a bar owner to be a part of a dragon extermination team–!! This is never going to work!! W-We’ll definitely going to die–!!”” [Sophia]

The person with the lowest mental fortitude who was fast reaching her limit began screaming.

As a result, everyone else seemed to brace themselves and clung on tight at the last minute.

They might have regained their own composure after looking at someone else’s unsightly behaviour. Since I’m experiencing it myself now, the others might have felt the same way.

Nice job, bar’s poster girl!

This is unexpectedly a great party.

The only thing that's lacking in this team is affection.

"Kyaa–…." [Ester]

However, one's state of preparedness and one's physical performance are entirely two different things.

The blonde haired loli was at the mercy of the violent vibration.

Her fingers slipped off and she lost her grip, causing her body to fly up into the air.

"E-Ester-!" [Allen]

Allen who fell into panic, cried out. However, he was in no position to help her as he was in a dire situation himself, desperately clinging to the side of the wall. He tried reaching for Ester with his hand out but he was unfortunately not able to reach her. In the meantime, her body which was left to the mercy of swing, slid off the bridge. If someone doesn't do something about it, she'll soon crash into the pillar.

"Kyaaaaaaaaa–!!" [Ester]

Her cry dragged on until it reached a high-pitched scream.

This is bad.

Quickly do something about it Allen. You're the ikemen, aren't you, Allen!

It was troublesome since the person whom I was placing my hope on couldn't move as well. If he were to throw himself out just to save her, the number of people who might get injured due to this violent turbulence would increase to two. He must have understood it. Since the dragon hunt would be coming shortly after this, the ikemen wasn't able to make his move freely.

I did mention it to them before that I could use recovery magic on any injuries as many times as I want but, a pain is still a pain. Even I understand that. This is especially true for bruises. The pain that gradually develops and spreads throughout the body starting the very instant you receive the blows is unbearable. Besides, there is a high possibility of an instant death if one were to receive the hit directly on the head.

If that's the case then it can't be helped. This is the time I should show my guts as the party leader.

Come out skill window.

Passive:
Magic Power Recovery (MP recovery): Lv Max
Magic Efficiency: Lv Max
Language Knowledge: Lv 1

Active:
Recovery Magic: Lv Max
Fire Magic: Lv 3
Purification Magic: Lv 5

Remaining skill points: 55

Alright. The level increased after defeating the High Orc and wyverns.

I received a lot of skill points.

That was quite an amazing amount.

This——-,

"Go-!" [Tanaka]

This is it.

Passive:
Magic Power Recovery (MP recovery): Lv Max
Magic Efficiency: Lv Max
Language Knowledge: Lv 1

Active:
Recovery Magic: Lv Max
Fire Magic: Lv 3
Purification Magic: Lv 5
Flight Magic: Lv 55 (EN: Holy Jesus lol) **Remaining skill points: 0**

Crap. I got way too over enthusiastic to the point where I wound up spending all the skill points.

This feeling was similar to when I played a game the last time. I was hitting the button repeatedly so I could skip through all the conversation scenes. Since I didn't have the leisure to confirm the details for all the important choices, I just went straight ahead. Or rather, why has it not reach max level yet even at level 55? What is the max level for this skill? I seriously wonder about it.

Well whatever. What matters now is the blonde haired loli.

Safety first. That's my party's philosophy.

I will not permit any casualties in my party.

I love happy ending.

"Hold onto me!" [Tanaka]

Flying middle-age oyaji number 2, at your service!

I caught the blonde haired loli in my arm by maneuvering in the air using flight magic.

"!…." [Ester]

Right at the moment when I caught and held her to my chest, she opened her eyes wide.

Well I guess she would be surprised if the one embracing her was the ugly middle-aged oyaji with soy sauce face. [1]

I would be surprised too if it were me.

“I understand what you’re trying to say but, just calm down for now.” [Tanaka]

“W-Wait…m-my breasts…..” [Ester]

Even so, this flight magic is considerably hard to use. If I were to relax my body, I would likely be pushed straight towards the wall due to the relative velocity of the airship. If so then, how will the rotation of the planet affect the flight? It made me seriously wonder about it. Could the reason be due to the workings of my unconscious mind since I was originally born on earth?

In any case, it was really difficult to stay in one place.

There was no blurriness within even 1 mm of my vision. I guess that was because my flight magic is at level 55. I wonder what is the state of the noble mage in the sky, who was in the middle of flying the airship. There is a possibility that there is no connection between the level of the magic and the stability of the flight. He might just be used to it actually.

“….I mean my b-breasts…..” [Ester]

“I’m really sorry. Could you endure it for a little longer?” [Tanaka]

“!….” [Ester]

“It must be really unpleasant for you. I’m sorry.” [Tanaka]

All I did was just apologize.

I’m truly behaving like how a Japanese would be.

I’m rather proud of myself.

By the way, the reason why the blonde haired loli was making a fuss was because my arm was pressing hard onto her breast. I hadn’t noticed it at all since I caught her in my arms in that moment of crisis. I’m happy. I’m happy. I’m seriously happy to be a lucky lewd. This is my first time touching the breasts of an opposite sex ever since I was born. What? Is that bad?

Although, I couldn’t feel much since they are too flat.

“I-It wasn’t unpleasant in particular….” [Ester]

The blonde haired loli muttered in a subdued voice and looked away, snubbing me.

Did you hate it that much?

Just because she's a used woman, doesn't mean that I wouldn't receive any damage.

I can afford it.

Ha-!!

First of all, if I managed to return safely, I will go to fūzoku. [2]

I'll release as much as I like.

Then I'll buy a large dog breed.

A Golden Retriever in particular.

Yup. This is fine.

"Unuooooooooooo–!!!" [Fahren]

On the other hand, the ossan voice became increasingly loud.

The sound wave of your deep voice has hit my eardrum. Couldn't you do something about it?

Nevertheless, the velocity of the airship seemed to have dropped judging by the scenery that went by from the bridge's window. It appeared that we were steadily decelerating. Could the ossan's cry be affecting the speed of the airship? At any rate, the effect is outstanding. Good job noble mage. Do your best, noble mage.

After around 2 to 3 minutes, the airship then came to a complete stop.

"Haa….haa….haa….." [Fahren]

As expected, the noble mage wasn't able to endure it too. His shoulder rose and fell as he breathed heavily.

Not only was he able to keep himself levitated in a fixed position in mid-air, he also has enough power to take control of an airship that was gaining momentum and forced it to crash-land. He did refer himself as a genius in magic. Unlike someone like me who uses only fireball attack, this ossan is a multi-talented man.

"We seemed to have landed safely, haven't we?" [Tanaka]

When I shot the question at him indirectly, he wiped the sweat off his brow with his hand.

“Fuu, that is natural. Nothing is impossible if I am in charge.” [Fahren]

His voice trembled. He appeared to have pulled it off at the last moment.

If that’s the case then you should’ve told me beforehand.

But, thanks. I’m grateful to you, noble mage. You’re cool.

“It would be better for us to leave the airship as soon as we can.” [Fahren]

“Why is that?” [Tanaka]

“All the noises made from that landing has attracted too much attention. There is a high possibility that the demons inhabiting the area would gather once they heard the noise. It would still be fine if salamanders are the only ones drawn here but, if the Red Dragon were to come here by chance as well, even both of us might have a hard time with it.” [Fahren]

I see. You’re quite right.

“I got it. Then let’s escape immediately after packing up.” [Tanaka]

Footnotes

1. Soy Sauce Face = typical Japanese face. You can check out the page here for all the references.
2. fūzoku 風俗 = literally means ‘public morals’. Fuzoku is a sex industry that composed of soaplands, pink salons, health, and image clubs.

Part 2

Translated by: Rinkage
Edited by: KawaiiAss

Dragon Extermination 3 (2/3)

We finally arrived at our destination, even though the trip wasn't what I would call safe.

We are currently halfway up Mount Pepe.

I'm not sure if we are blessed with good luck or bad luck but we encountered it the moment we left the airship.

"R-Red Dragon….."

Allen got to the ground and stepped forward as the vanguard.

The words that escaped his lips, was the objective that we intended for.

The other members who followed along were petrified as soon as they took a step outside.

I was feeling the same way. What appeared before my eyes has confounded me.

"Two of them. That is indeed beyond my expectation." [Tanaka]

Two enormous dragons resembling Western dragons have just entered the area below us. If you were to research information about the Red Dragons, their characteristics are actually easily recognizable.

The main issue right now is the size. They are about the same size as the airship. They are totally incomparable to size of the wyverns that we encountered earlier. Humongous.

“Ku–, going against two at once is indeed too much for a human…..What should we do?” [Fahren]

The noble mage was at a loss on what to do as well.

That is how serious the current situation is.

I wouldn’t know either even if you were to ask me. Seriously, what are we going to do now?

For the time being, let’s check their status.

Name: John
Sex: Male
Race: Red Dragon
Level: 267
Job: NEET
HP: 311800/312610
MP: 81700/81705
STR: 27900
VIT: 15962
DEX: 9952
AGI: 21522
INT: 32500
LUC: 10363

Name: Bob (EN: Top tier naming) (TL: lol)
Sex: Male
Race: Red Dragon
Level: 273
Job: NEET (EN:Only job worth having)
HP: 331800/332610
MP: 71700/91705

STR: 29002
VIT: 16962
DEX: 94052
AGI: 21010
INT: 30020
LUC: 12363

This is dangerous.

Their stats are one digit different than the wyverns.

Name: Tanaka
Sex: Male
Race: Human
Level: 65
Job: Alchemist
HP: 54909/54609
MP: 149500000/149500000
STR: 3375
VIT: 7560
DEX: 9852
AGI: 4442
INT: 10922000
LUC: 329

This is wondrous as usual.

What an unbalanced status!

My level has risen alot since the fight with the high orc and the wyverns but, the most overwhelming stats of all is still INT. Nonetheless, the instant those guys unleash their largest damaging attack that exceeds my current HP, it would be a game over. What a thrilling design this is.

I really miss the times when the HP of my enemies were in the lower digits.

Name: Annerose Leapman
Sex: Female
Race: Human
Level: 50
Job: Holy Knight
HP: 10850/10850
MP: 1175/1850
STR: 3003
VIT: 1358
DEX: 1521
AGI: 2830
INT: 1242
LUC: 891

Mercedes-chan, why is your self-declared name and the name on the status window different? Who the heck is Annerose Leapman? Come to think of it, I think this name did appear when I tried confirming her stats before in the prison. So is Mercedes her false name?

Well whatever. She must have a reason to it.

She did say that she was accused when we met for the first time in the prison.

I don't have the leisure to be worrying about that right now and it is not something that I'm really interested in knowing either.

Name: Grimoire Fahren
Sex: Male
Race: Human
Level: 80
Job: Mage
HP: 31850/31850
MP: 20850/20850
STR: 1300
VIT: 4958

DEX: 19821
AGI: 1030
INT: 41942
LUC: 3291

The noble mage's stats will come in handy. I will be using this guy. He's a splendid war potential.

His INT is about 30% higher than the dragon so I can expect high damage from him.

Name: Allen Anderson
Sex: Male
Race: Human
Level: 30
Job: Knight
HP: 6600/6600
MP: 120/120
STR: 750
VIT: 1002
DEX: 752
AGI: 942
INT: 190
LUC: 839

Name: Elizabeth Fitz Clarence
Sex: Female
Race: Half-Succubus
Level: 38
Job: Mage
HP: 4230/4230
MP: 8100/8100
STR: 300

VIT: 562
DEX: 652
AGI: 942
INT: 5190
LUC: 330

Name: Cyan Bitch[1] (EN:Ahhhhh is this suppose to be like this lol?)
Sex: Female
Race: Human
Level: 35
Job: Mage
HP: 6705/6705
MP: 6500/7300
STR: 800
VIT: 662
DEX: 752
AGI: 620
INT: 4190
LUC: 280

Not only Sophie-chan but the name given by the blonde haired loli was also a false one? Well seeing that she is the daughter of a distinguished noble, it was kind of understandable. In fact, the reason for her false name is easily understandable compared to Mercedes-chan.

Or rather, Ester-chan, have you stopped being human? I mean half-human at least. No wait, now's not the time to be worrying if she's a human. In the first place, it's not good to discriminate against people. Yeah it's not good.

Rather, there is a bigger problem now.

The group sex team is weaker than I thought.

It would be bad if I don't do something about this. There might be spells like BiKill, Haste or Rakukaja. [2]There should definitely be a skill in hand that I could use. I wouldn't know how we are going to pull through this fight against the dragons if not.

Passive:
Magic Power Recovery (MP recovery): Lv Max
Magic Efficiency: Lv Max
Language Knowledge: Lv 1

Active:
Recovery Magic: Lv Max
Fire Magic: Lv 3
Purification Magic: Lv 5
Flight Magic: Lv 55

Remaining skill points: 0

That was what I thought but, damn. I don't have any skill points left. This is the consequence after I got carried away earlier and pumped all my skill points on the flight magic. It was difficult to adjust.

Well it's no use crying over spilled milk now. I should kill one of the dragon quickly so I could level up. This might be the only way to ensure the survival of the group sex team.

You can always gain the experience on the scene. I'm the OJT type of guy. [3]

Aa, while I'm at it, let's take a look at Sophia-chan's stats.

Name: Sophia Bacon
Sex: Female
Race: Human
Level: 12
Jobs: Waitress
HP: 209/209

MP: 82/82
STR: 30
VIT: 70
DEX: 130
AGI: 92
INT: 90
LUC: 98030

(EN:I swear these names, what is going on?!) (TL: Raw is ベーコン. Let me know if anyone has a better idea. Chalk it up to the author since we have Penny Empire and Republic of Pussy too xD)

What is up with this child. She has an excessively high LUC.

Bacon, you're amazing.

She would be able to survive on her own even if I were to leave her alone, wouldn't she?

Well whatever. Let's go with this.

"I will restrain the two dragons' movement. While I am at it, I would like the rest of you to concentrate your attacks on the right one please. As discussed in the meeting, I will be taking charge here." [Tanaka]

If the noble mage were to concentrate his firepower on one of them, it might be possible to bring one down. The other members are present too so they should be able give him a hand. We could use them to draw the attention of the two dragons in the meantime.

If we could defeat at least one, then I would not be the only one who would be gaining experience. The rest of the members will be able to level up too.

And, once I manage to acquire skill points, breaking through this obstacle would be a breeze.

The other plan I had in mind was to shoot my usual fireball attack with all my power. However, if that is not able to knock it down, then a counterattack would be inevitable. I have already experienced this before with the wyverns. Naturally,

the damage would be enormous if the opponent were a last boss.

Seeing that prioritizing safety is our party's motto, we should conclude this after defeating at least one of them. My house is indeed important but, this party is undoubtedly also just as important at this moment.

After all, they did come all the way here after listening to what this ossan had said.

Okay, okay.

For some reason the tension has gone up as though I am in a boss fight.

By the way, the reason why everyone's HP and MP have been fully restored was because a complete preparation was already made before we encountered this last boss. Regardless of the possibility of encountering the Red or Blue Dragon, we had already gulped down the potion to prepare ourselves beforehand. Although, I wonder how much is a bottle of potion. I was afraid to enquire the price.

"You, are you really going to fight them?" [Fahren]

"I guess it's going to be hard, isn't it?" [Tanaka]

As expected, it appeared that ossan is also scared this time.

Would it be better to escape after all?

Nonetheless I don't think that all the members would be able to escape this place unscathed.

"In my opinion, we would be able to minimize our damage if we were to try defeating them rather than escaping." [Tanaka]

I made the suggestion as I looked at him straight in the eyes.

It was a little embarrassing though, since he was staring back at me too.

That's because he was making me tense with his gaze!

"……." [Fahren]

"……." [Tanaka]

There was a troubled look on his face for a split second.

However, he nodded in agreement to my proposal in the end.

“……I got it.” [Fahren]

“You’re fine with it?” [Tanaka]

“Fine? Of course I’m fine with it. The word impossible does not exist in my dictionary.” [Fahren]

“Thank you.” [Tanaka]

Although, he seemed bewildered right now. I wonder if it would be alright.

No no. This is not the time to be worrying about it now.

If I have known this would happen, I would’ve drunk alcohol to my heart’s content before coming here.

“Then, let’s go!” [Tanaka]

I tried to look cool by flying into the sky with my newly obtained flight magic. Kicking the ground, I soared into the sky with great force. The scenery around me passed by in just the blink of an eye.

Nonetheless, flying towards the dragon’s body directly is comparable to suicide. What would happen is similar to this scenario: Just as you switch off the light as you are lying in bed in the middle of the night, a mosquito suddenly appears, buzzing around your ears. Naturally, you will direct your attention to that source of noise.

I have a feeling that it would be an instant game-over if I were to receive even a single shot right now. It would be unbearable in various ways.

Footnotes

1. シアン・ビッチ = This is the raw for her name. ビッチ itself means ‘Slut’ in Japanese but it will be pronounced as ‘Bitch’ when you translate it literally. I left it as ‘Bitch’ since it’s a family name here but let me know which one you all

prefer.
2. BiKill is a spell from Dragon Quest that doubles allies attack power, Haste increases speed while Rakukaja is a skill from Shin Megami Tensei series that increases allies defence.
3. On-the-job training (OJT) = Also called direct instruction.